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Frontispiece

Mr. and Mrs. MUNCHERJI COWASJI MURZBAN.
 Their children, grand-children, and great grand-children.
 ખાન બાહાદુર મનચેરજી કાવસજી મરઝબાન અને કુટુંબ.

[Photo in 1912.

[*Times Press*,

LEAVES FROM THE LIFE
OF
KHAN BAHADUR
MUNCHERJI COWASJI MURZBAN, C. I. E.

Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers :
Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

WITH
AN
INTRODUCTION
containing a life-sketch of
FARDUNJI MURZBANJI,

Founder of Gujarati Printing Press and of
Gujarati Journalism in India.

BY
MURZBAN MUNCHERJI MURZBAN,

of the Middle Temple, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, & Advocate of the
High Court of Bombay : Annotator of the Stamp Laws of India : Late
examiner for the District Pleaders' Examination by the High Court
of Bombay : Late Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Indian
State Railways : Officier d'Academie d'Francaise : Author
of two Gujarati novels, *Behkeloo Vajoo* and *Badmoo-*
***chho Ingrezi Brahman* : Editor of "The Parsis**
in India," (being an English edition of M'dlle
Delphine Menant's *Les Parsis*.)

Printed by
Furdoonji Byramji Marzban
in F. B. Marzban & Co.'s Printing Press.
Military Square Lane, Fort, Bombay,
for the Author.

PREFACE.

The facts embodied in the two life-sketches, comprised in this book, have been chiefly derived as follows:

The leading and principal events of my great-grand-father Fardunji's life, (in the Introduction), I have taken from two books published in Gujarati. But as, up to date, there has been none published in English, I deemed it advisable to write a very concise life-sketch in that language. It had been previously published in a Parsi New-Year Number of one of the Bombay Gujarati daily newspapers.

The events of my father Muncherji's life have been put together,—mostly in chronological order,—from: journals, newspapers, letters (official and unofficial), diaries, Government records, oral communications, the two bulky tomes of Khan Bahadur B. B. Patel's *Parsi Prakash*, [with the subsequent five parts of its vol. III., (by Rustam B. Paymaster, Esq.), and from the yearly *Zoroastrian Calendars* of Mr. Jagosh.

As for the Genealogical Table, placed in this book: for the latter portion of it, I am indebted to the courtesy of Dhanjibhai Manekji Mugaseth, Esq., of Calicut, who, some years ago, printed that part from a manuscript supplied to him by the late Behramji Fardunji Murzban, Esq. In the Table published by me, I have prefixed an additional one, based on the Genealogical Tables published with the histories of two well-known Parsi families.

My acknowledgments are due to the *Times of India* Press for so neatly executing the work of the Genealogical Table as well as the photo-zinco blocks and the printing of the pictures therefrom. Some of the blocks had to be made from somewhat old and faded photographs.

I must mention here that, at first, this book was intended for the perusal of members of the Murzban family and of our friends, but the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, in the Public Works Department, after kindly perusing the advance-pages, has accorded the permission of Government to its being published for the perusal of the public. I have, therefore, now much pleasure in placing this book in the hands of indulgent readers in general.

M. M. MURZBAN.

“GULESTAN,”
Esplanade,
FORT, BOMBAY,
12th July 1915.

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An idealized picture
of

FARDUNJI MURZBANJI,

Founder of Gujarati Printing Press and Journalism in India.

હિન્દુસ્થાનનાં પેહેલાં ગુજરાતી છાપાખાનાના અને ગુજરાતી ન્યૂસપેપરના સ્થાપક

શેઠ ફરદુનજી મરઝખાનજીને

આબેહુલ મળતા ચેહરાની એક તસ્વિર.

[Times Press

INTRODUCTION.

From the Genealogical Table, affixed to this book, it will be noticed that the line of descent of the Murzban family has been printed in black types, (in English as well as in Gujarati). The founder of this family, as well as of many other well-known Parsi families, is Shahpur Sheheryar, the grand-father of the well-known historical personage, Dastur Nereosangh Dhaval. Shahpur Sheheryar is believed to be the founder of all the mobed (=priestly) families now existing all over India.

One of the descendants of this family was Fardunji Murzbanji, the founder of Gujarati Printing Press and Gujarati Journalism in India.

Fardunji was son of Murzban,⁽¹⁾ the founder of the family, now in Bombay, of that name. Murzban's

1. *Murzban*: *Marzban*, or, (spelt in accordance with the Persian spelling and pronunciation of the name), *Marzaban* (with accent on "za"): For meaning of this name and the functions performed by the Murzbans of Persia, see Arthur Christensen: *L'Empire des Sassanides: Le Peuple, L'etat, L'Cour*: (*Memoirs de l'Academie Royal des Sciences et des Lettres de Danemark*: Copenhagen: 1907): English translation, (in manuscript), kindly lent to me by Mr. Gustad K. Nariman, of the Rangoon Chief Court.

J. J. Mody, in his *Astati Papers*, p. 170, says: " According to Percival, (in his *Histoires des Arabes*, vol. II, p. 187), the Persian Governors of Heirah were, up to a later time, known as '*Marzban*.' " Gustad K. Nariman, in his first contribution (on " Christians and Zoroastrians under the Sassanides," in *The Parst*, vol. II, p. 14), says: " Immediately under the King of Kings, or more correctly, side by side with him, Iranian families, of the most ancient lineage, as a rule seven

father was Kaus, who was surnamed 'Munajjami,' because he was reputed to be accomplished in astrology and *ramal* (a sort of geomancy.) Kaus's descent is traceable, in direct line, from Nereosangh Dhaval's ancestor Shahpur Shehriar, who is believed to be *the mobed* who persuaded and brought with him the *first* Parsi refugees to India from Persia. Fardunji's father, Murzban, was a man learned in Persian. He (Murzban) was the head of the ecclesiastical division (*panthak*) of the *mobeds* of Surat, where they had settled from Naosari. Fardunji's mother was daughter of the famous Mirza Kaus Khushru Baig, the chief high priest (*Dastur*) of the oldest Firetemple (*Atashbeheram*) in Udwada (in Gujarat). This Kaus,—(one of the trinity of cotemporaneous Kaus),—received his title of Mirza Khushru Baig from Emperor Alamgir, in whose Court, at Delhi, Kaus was a *Jagirdar* and Keeper of the Seal of that Emperor.

Born in 1787, A. D., in Kanpith, in a lane called Kamnagar, in Surat, Fardunji (the subject of the present sketch) learnt Gujarati and Persian, till the age of twelve, and was initiated into a knowledge of Zoroastrian religious ceremonies. But

in number, occupied the most important hereditary offices in the State, dividing, among themselves, much of the territory and almost all the forces, usually massed on the confines of the Empire. These military officers were called 'Marzbans,' a term which is a literal Pahlavi equivalent of the English 'Warden of the Marshes.' It is of frequent occurrence in the Christian literature and in the Arabic chronicles, and corresponds to the charge mentioned in the rock-cut cuneiform inscriptions of the Achæmenides which the Greeks corrupted into 'Satrap.'"—M. M. M

his father, Murzbanji, being unable to assist his child, Fardun, in his further studies after the age of 12, placed the son under the tutorship of the then well-known teacher Fazel-ulma-Mofti Jahiroddin bin Nasirulla. under whose instruction young Fardun continued his studies in Persian. Under another teacher, a *pandit*, Fardun took his lessons in Sanskrit. He thereafter studied other languages, and cultivated a taste for medicine, and for which he was indebted to a well-known *tabib* (Indian medicine practitioner), of Broach, Goolam Mohiuddin. To this knowledge of medicine, Fardunji was indebted in his after-life for his many acts of kindness etc. towards others, and even in his very straitened circumstances in the latter part of his life. His father, Murzbanji, being of an exceedingly stern temperament, and whose word was law in his house, father and son soon began to disagree. This disagreement lasted a considerable time, and was due, not to any question of money, nor to any domestic matters. The origin of the quarrel, between father and son, was the son's ambition to go to Bombay, from Surat, to prosecute his studies further, the bent of the son's mind being towards acquirement of knowledge of sorts. The father was of a different opinion. Unlike the present generation, it was the father who deemed that what his son had already learnt was sufficient for the day thereof. The more young Fardun evinced and pressed his wishes to migrate to Bombay, the more stern and more determined his father became and set his face, with dogged tenacity, against the son carrying out his wishes. This serious difference of

opinion resulted in Fardun's leaving his father's house one night,—his books under his arms, a bundle of clothes in his hand. He walked from morn till eve, without food, and without rest, fearing a pursuit by his father. At even-fall, he rested awhile in a tiny village. But he did not sleep. Opening his bundle of books, he commenced singing out Sanskrit *shlokas* from one of them. This drew the Parsi villagers around him. To hear a Parsi, and that too aged twelve, read out Sanskrit *shlokas* was a matter for no small surprise to them. Learning whose child he was, and why in that forlorn condition, they hastened to extend to him their hospitality in various ways. Some brought him milk, some *roti* (bread) of *bajra*. Those in pursuit of this little mite, over-took him here, and carried him back to his father's house. But the father was not atonce made acquainted with his truant child's return or presence under his roof, so great was the terror of the old man. In an under-ground room, little Fardun was concealed for three days and nights. Eventually, the father yielded to the child's wishes and decided to send him to Broach, under the care and supervision of Dastur Aspandiarji Kamdinji, the then high priest of Broach, esteemed as highly learned in religion and literature. But the *kabiseh* controversy, just at that time, was raging, and to the ill-luck of young Fardun, the sparks of this controversy had set ablaze the Broach community of Parsis and its surroundings, and Murzbanji was deterred from risking the safety of his child in Broach. There-

fore, to Bombay, the child eventually went. Here resided the illustrious Mulla Feroz,—of the same family-stock to which Murzbanji belonged. Mulla Feroz's father, Kaus Jalal, had been, in 1768 A.D., sent to Persia, by Dhunjishah Manjishah, the leader of the small band of Parsis, who had seceded from their Indian co-religionists' mode of reckoning the Parsi new year's day, and who were thereafter called *Kadmi*. In Kaus Jalal's despatch to Persia, Murzbanji's father, Kaus Munajjam, had a hand, and this had cemented a friendship between Kaus Munajjam and Kaus Jalal. These feelings of friendship descended in their respective sons, Murzbanji and Mulla Feroz, who had frequent access to the collection of books in the library of Murzbanji. An impending marriage, in the Mulla Feroz family, was made an ostensible occasion for young Fardun's journey Bombay-wards. From Surat to Bombay, the journey was performed by country-cart,—no railways, then, had been laid in India. In 1805, Faredun, aged 18, arrived Bombay, the scene of his after-career, the subject of this sketch. The severance of his connection with Surat meant the forfeiture of his rights, by inheritance, to the Dustur-ship of Surat, after his father's demise. This loss, to the then illiterate sacerdotal class, was a gain to the then semi-literate communities of Bombay. It was a change from being the lineal descendant of the founder of an ecclesiastical (*athornân*) family to the founder of a family of journalists. As pupil and disciple of a man of undaunted courage, of a scholar of languages and of the philosophy of the Zoroastrian religion, of a poet and an author,

Faredun resided in Bombay for a long number of years, but not before that pupil's master had himself escaped the fate of a ship-wreck, on 21st April 1782, in the midst of a storm on seas, while on voyage bound to Broach. Peshotan,—to give Mulla Feroz his birth-name,—had accompanied his father Kaus Jalal to Persia, and, after years of residence and study, had brought back, with him, some valuable, rare books, (the *Desatir* among them),—a large number of which found their shelves in the waters of the sea near Gujarat. 'Mulla' was merely a title for an unique honour,—a sort of University Degree,—conferred upon him by the Khalif of Bagdad. 'Feroz' or 'Feruz' was a cognomen adopted by the recipient of this honour. Hence 'Mulla-Feroz' has become the surname of a family into whose care Faredun was entrusted in Bombay. Highly versed in Arabic and Persian, the author of the once famous, but now much forgotten *George-nameh*, Dustur Mulla Feroz became the "friend, guide, and philosopher" of Faredun. But old Murzbanji was still immovable in his dogged determination. Days passed, weeks passed, pressing letters for Faredun's return to Surat were indited by the father, couched in threats of sorts, but young Faredun stuck to the sleeves of his future master. The letters precipitated matters, and, one day, this young man, with bended knees, supplicated that the father be persuaded to yield. Mulla Feroz got his friend to "climb down," and Faredun remained for good in Bombay. But even with Bombay and its master-head, the pupil was not content. To act as a sort of boy-secretary to Mulla Feroz, to look

after his valuable library, and, 'as *mobed*, to attend to the routine of religious ceremonies and prayers, was a task to which Faredun would not and could not take, without a feeling of dislike and disdain. To Persia, he would go and study and explore, and that too at the age of twelve, just as he did from Surat to that tiny country-village.' He plotted with some members of the Mulla Feroz family to take himself to Persia in the guise of a *fakir*. The plot was detected, and to Persia, Faredun never went. Married in infancy,—as all Parsis were, in days gone-by,—to Kuvarbai, daughter of a Surat cloth-merchant, Kharshedji Sorabji, and niece to a *hakim*-in-waiting to the Nawab of Surat,—Mulla Feroz set up a separate house for young Faredun and his wife. Pursuit of studies was no longer his aim, though it was his life-long ambition. Household expenses must be defrayed; and, for that, the means were wanting. At last, in 1808, he took to book-binding! From a book-binder to a journalist and an author!! The idea of book-binding germinated from his proclivities towards the study of books in his master's Library,—at present the public *Mulla Feroz Kitab-Khana*, dedicated to the *Kadmis* of Bombay. The books, which Faredun handled to read, often needed repairs and rebinding, all which he did with his own hand. In these early days, in the history of Bombay, a book-binder was a *rara avis*, and so Faredun took to, what he deemed, a paying avocation. He hired a shop, a few feet in dimensions, in the midst of Hindu quarters known by the quaint name

of *Motishah's Apasara*. With the patronage of Jonathan Duncan, then Governor of Bombay, of the Nawab of Mazagon,—(as a landed proprietor, of a suburb of that name in Bombay, was styled in those days, but no such Nawab now lives, no one even knows that such a Nawab ever existed),—with the patronage of some Mahomedans of repute in book-collections and book-reading,—Faredun earned the aggregate sum of rupee one and annas eight, in the course of the first six months of his artisanship. But providentially, the failure of a Borah Mahomedan, who had taken a contract to supply, to the Indian regiments, their paper head-gear,—this failure was the beginning of a successful career for young Faredun. A sample head-gear, worked up with the skilful hands of this book-binder, brought him a contract, and Faredun forthwith stepped into the shoes of his Borah neighbour. An order for three-thousand such articles brought in a small fortune of Rs. 1,500. It was but slightly supplemented by his slender income in book-binding. From book-binding, to private postal service, Fardunji,—(as young Faredun must have, ere now, begun to be called,)—next turned his attention. Prior to 1834, there was nothing like an organized and exclusive postal department of the Government of Bombay. Even private individuals did the work of carrying and delivering letters between Bombay, Surat, Broach, Naosari, Damman, etc. The postage, charged by them, sufficed to keep an establishment of runners. One such shop survived till as late as 1885. This shop Fardunji had opened in partnership with other Parsis. A small tax of two annas was payable to

Government out of annas six earned on every *tola* of letter or parcel. Thus, of a private postal-department Fardunji was the post-master-general! But such mechanical work was also distasteful to him, and he gave it up just as the income reached its highest figure. About this time, the *Bombay Courier* printing press was the only one in Bombay. Its Parsi printer, Jijibhai Behramji Chhapgar,—mentioned in the pages of Miss Menant's *Les Parsis*, and its English edition (by me),—was a friend of his. Frequent visits to the printing-press revived the predilections of this young man of a versatile turn of mind. His small but substantial savings, and a pretty large circle of friends enabled him to carry out his idea of opening a vernacular press, ⁽²⁾ the first in the history of the Bombay Presidency. What Caxton did in England and Gutenberg ⁽³⁾

2.—In 1814, when the first *Panchang* (=Almanac) was published, Fardunji had not given any name to his printing press; but, in 1822, on his bringing out the *Mumbai Samachar* newspaper, the Press came to be known as Mumbai Samachar Press.

3.—R. P. Karkaria, in a contribution in the *Calcutta Review*, of April 1898, (and reproduced in the *Times of India*, of Bombay), observes: Fardunji Murzban "was the Pioneer, not only of journalism in Western India, but of all Guzerati printed literature. Though he may not be called the Caxton of Western India, - that honour belongs to another man, also a Parsee,—it was certainly he who showed his countrymen the way in the composition and publication of healthy literature." Mr. Karkaria does not mention the name of this other fortunate Parsi, nor his reasons for saying so. But I find, in the 1885-86 number of the *Zoroastrian Calendar*, compiled by Mr. Muncherji H. Jagosh, that one Mr. Jijibhai Behramji Chhapgar, who was employed in the *Bombay Courier* newspaper office had commenced to insert, in it, Gujarati advertisements printed from wooden types, and that, later on, he utilized these for printing books in Gujarati. Possibly, Mr. Karkaria refers to this Parsi as the Caxton of Western India, for Gujarati printing. Mr. S. C. Sanial, in an

(1400-1468) in Strasburgh, Fardunji did in Bombay in 1812, *i. e.*, at the age of twenty-five. It needed,—it seems strange to say,—a deal of influence and affluence to set up even a wooden hand-press. Its small sundry accompaniments were also got together. But, types for the Gujarati alphabet ! The acquisition of a press was acquisition of a cart without its horse !! In those early days, Parsis said their prayers either from memory or from manuscripted books, prepared according to the means of their owners. Those who could not afford this luxury, of such hand-written books, had to go without them. (See the *Mumbaina* (Bombay) *Samachar* newspaper, 28th March 1847). Fardunji set himself about to find the wherewithals for Gujarati types. On pieces of steel, he himself engraved the letters of the Gujarati alphabet, and these forming the matrix, he cast

article, " History of the Press in India," contributed in the *Calcutta Review* of November 1909, says : " In the file of the *Bombay Courier* of 1797, several advertisements could be seen printed in these types."

Dr. Johannes Hertel, in his "*The Panchatantra*," (a collection of Ancient Hindu Tales,—in the rescension, called *Panchakhyanaka*, and dated 1199 A. D.,—of Jaina Monk, Purnabhadra), critically edited, in the original Sanskrit by Dr. Johannes Hertel, (Cambridge : Massachusetts : Published by the Harvard University 1908 ; Harvard Oriental Series : vol. XI), says, in his Prefatory notes, on p. XXII :
 " The first important press of Western India was started by an American Mission in 1816. A young Eurasian of that Press, Thomas Graham, cut the first Marathi and Gujarati type. At this press, were later employed also two young Hindu lads, one of whom, Javaji Dadaji, learned the art of printing from the Americans, and founded the Nirnaya Sagar Press, now carried on by his son Tukaram Javaji. "

For his authority, for the above information, the author, Dr. Hertel gives, in a footnote, the name of Dr. Justin E. Abbot, of Bombay.



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DASTUR MULLA FERUZ *bin* KAUS.

દસ્તુર મૂલ્લા ફરૂઝ બિન કાઉસ.

leadен types therefrom. His workmen,—for his casting work,—were female members of his own household. Not only to cast, but to give them shape and polish, did these ladies contribute their labour, in order, as it were, to share in the laurels of an Indian,—eh ! a Parsi-Caxton-Gutenberg. In this book I have placed portraits of some of the daughters of Fardunji who had helped their father in this commendable enterprise of his, and which enterprise has caused quite a revolution in the social and religious life of the Parsis in India, as the art of Printing did all over the world. I wish I could have placed here the likenesses of *all* these ladies, but, on inquiries from some of their children, I find that no photograph has been ever taken of three other daughters, who also had a hand in the setting up of the Gujarati types. Bai Kuvarbai, Fardunji's wife, sat for her photo., (here reproduced), for the first time in her life, when she was about 80 years of age. She was then both blind and deaf, but with a most powerful memory and sense of touch.

The year 1812 was, therefore, a red-letter year in the history of Gujarati printing,—in fact in the history of vernacular printing in the Bombay Presidency. His printed books sold in numbers. In 1814, he printed and published the *first* Hindu *Panchang* (=Almanac) in the Gujarati language, fully six years before the first Bengali Calendar was printed and published in Calcutta. He sold it for rupees two per copy. The same *Panchang*, printed at the present day, is sold for two annas ! Thereafter, this *Panchang* has continued to be published for 83 years consecu-

tively ; to-day its sale has increased, from a few hundred, to 30,000 copies. With the keen instincts and devotion of an ecclesiastic, he roused himself to a sense of his duty to his religion and to his co-religionists. In 1815, was printed,—for the first time in the history of the sacred-literature of the Parsis,—a Gujarati translation of the *Dabestan*. Rs. 15 was the price, per copy, of a book now sold for rupee one. Next came the turn for a religious book, as that of the Bible in the hands of Caxton. In the same year, the sacred-of-sacred book, in daily use by the Parsis,—the *Khordeh-Avesta*,—was set in type in Gujarati characters. For Fardunji, the investment was unremunerative, as the book was printed from types ordered out from England, and he lost over this venture ; but the Parsis gained, as this printed book helped in the reading of the most sacred prayers, with an approximately correct pronunciation, though their meaning continued to be as unknown,—even to the Parsi clergy,—as it has been even to-day to the laity. In spite of this pecuniary loss, Fardunji,—staunch as he was in the religion of his forefathers,—brought out, on the New Year's day of 1818, a *Khordeh Avesta-ba-màyani*, (= 'The Khordeh Avesta, with its meaning'). It was the first book of its kind ever printed. The translation was rendered into Gujarati by Dastur Fardunji Sorabji Meherji Rana, of Naosari ; but, in its style, it received its finishing touches from the hand of its printer and publisher. Thenceforward, publications came out apace. In 1819, the *Bundahishn*

was printed in Gujarati character. Numerous tracts and pamphlets, under the auspices of many an enterprising Parsi, saw the light of day, through Fardunji's printing-press. In 1822, attention was diverted to the printing of school-literature; and a Gujarati translation of Murray's *English Grammar* was brought out. As with religion, so with science. And, in 1826, Fardunji,—himself a man with good deal of knowledge in medicine,—gave an impetus to the promulgation of,—what is now a *sine qua non* after the birth of every babe in India,—Vaccination. He printed a brochure, at the expense of Government, setting forth the history and advantages of vaccination. Those who could not, themselves, read and write, were thus enabled to have printed Gujarati books read to them. And thus, an immense progress was made by this mode of spreading knowledge among the Gujarati-speaking natives of the Bombay Presidency.

Now came the turn for Journalism in the Bombay Presidency,—the vernacular journalism. Fardunji turned his attention to the publication of a newspaper. The seeds of a taste for literature in books had been already sown. Mounstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay, urged Fardunji Murzban to carry out what was then but an immature scheme, over which Fardunji was but ruminating all the while. Types for English, Persian, and Marathi alphabets were ordered out from Calcutta. Fardunji set himself to a study of the English language, so as to be able to grasp the European mode of conduct-

ing journals. Throughout the length and breadth of India, except the *Samachar Darpan*, in the Bengali vernacular, (started in 1818 by two European missionaries, Dr. Marshman and Mr. Ward), there was no other vernacular newspaper in existence.

On the 10th of June 1822, a prospectus in Gujarati was issued by Fardunji. It was the handiwork of a man aged only thirty-five, with but very scanty knowledge of English; and yet, it evidences maturity of thought and plan. It was a prospectus more for a weekly journal of the present day than of the year 1822. It promised all that the most modern, up-to-date journal promises. That the British Government had encouraged and patronized the publication of a Gujarati journal,—a fact explicitly notified in the very head-lines of the prospectus,—indicated the best intentions of the Rulers. The venture was christened *Mumbaina Samachar*, (=‘The News of Bombay.’) It was started as a weekly publication. Within a few days of the issue of the prospectus, a hundred-and-fifty subscribers, (among them, 67 Parsis, 14 Europeans, 8 Hindus, and 6 Mahomedans), enlisted their names on payment of Rs. 2 per month. Fifty copies were subscribed by the Government of Mounstuart Elphinstone. Surat, Poona, Calcutta, Daman (of the Portuguese territory in India), also joined in this enlistment. This was encouraging enough for the Nathaniel Butter of India. Two hundred years prior to 1822, the London *Weekly News*; (by Butter), was the butt of ridicule and pun, on its appearance



BAI JARBAL
(Mrs. Dadabhai
Cowasji Damanyala)

બાઈ જરબાઈ
દાદાબાઈ કાવસજી
દમનવાલા.



BAI KHURSHED-
BAI
(Mrs. Jamshedji
Pestamji Gora)

બાઈ ખુરશેદબાઈ
જમશેદજી
પેસ્ટાનજી ગોરા.



Mrs. FARDUNJI
MURZBANJI

બાઈ ફુવરબાઈ તે
ફરદુનજી મરઝબાન-
જીનાં વિધવા.



BAI DOSIBAI
(Mrs. Nasarwanji Bezant Dastur)

બાઈ દોસીબાઈ નસરવાનજી
બેઝનજી દસ્તુર.



BAI SHIRINBAI
(Mrs. Dorabji Padamji)

બાઈ શીરીનબાઈ દોરાબજી
પદમજી.

Mrs. Fardunji Murzbanji and some of her daughters who assisted their father in the founding of the first Gujarati Printing Press in India

બાઈ ફુવરબાઈ તે ફરદુનજી મરઝબાનજીનાં વિધવા અને હિંદુસ્તાનમાં પેહેલું
ગુજરાતી છાપાખાતું ઉઘાડવામાં પોતાના પિતાને મદદ કરનારી
એઓની કેટલીએક દિકરીઓ.

as the *first* newspaper of England. The stage derided the idea. Ben Johnson and Fletcher, famous play-wrights of those early days, had joined in this derision. But Fardunji's fate was unique. Instead of ridiculing his venture, the Indian public went into a chorus of praise, when, on the 1st of July 1822, the *Mumbaina Samachar* made its first appearance. It was the cynosure of all eyes. It wrought a wonderment, most singular in the history of the Indian peoples. Fardunji Murzban was its editor: with a staff of translators, quite on the methods of working a twentieth century newspaper. This journal furnishes ample testimony to the independence of Fardunji Murzban. In Menant's *Les Parsis*, a passage from the pen of Briggs has been cited to shew the nature of writings which appeared in later Gujarati newspapers. Fardunji's *Mumbaina Samachar* was entirely free from the charge laid by Briggs against its successors. In its loyalty to the British Crown, Fardunji's writings can never be excelled. In the warmth of his politely worded arguments, in the advocacy of what appeared to him to be right and proper, in his opposition to what he deemed to be wrong, and in his services to the public, Fardunji wielded his pen in a manner which even an editor of to-day would and should gladly imitate. He never prostituted his pen or his paper. In the very first number of his *Mumbaina Samachar*, Fardunji has written, in his quaint old Gujarati vernacular, an inaugural editorial on the merits of the British Rule in India; and its pithy comparison, with the govern-

ments of its former Indian rulers, is well-worth one's perusal, even to-day. In the same editorial, the advantages of a Public Press have been set out, and it re-iterates the admission of the British that the Liberty of the Press is one of their birth-rights. In fact, this editorial is most instructive and educative in its contents and tone, and opens the eyes of the inhabitants of India to one supreme advantage which, as Fardunji points out, the Public Press possesses as a medium through which the subjects of the Sovereign and his or her Parliament can make their grievances and their prayers known to them, as also, through the same medium, the same Sovereign and Parliament can communicate with their subjects. An intimate knowledge of the law of defamation, in connection with the public Press, has also been displayed in his editorial by Fardunji Murzbanji.

On the 13th of August 1832—*i. e.*, ten years after *Mumbaina Samachar* was started,—Fardunji handed over the office of its editor to Temulji Rastamji Mirza. In doing so, an editorial was published, exhorting his successor to follow, in every respect, the lines on which his newspaper had been conducted, *i. e.*, in language, tone, its main matters, its policy in regard to religious controversies, and the publication of correspondence. In fact, the whole exhortation is a series of instructions which one editor leaves to his *locum tenens*; and Fardunji assured his readers and the new editor, of the continuance of his support even after his severance,

which was brought about under most painful and distressing circumstances.

Many Parsis received their instruction and training under Fardunji Murzbanji. Naoroji Dorabji Chandaru, who later on conducted the *Chabuk* (= 'Whip') newspaper, Sorabji Dorabji Chandaru, later on, the editor of the *Reformer*, Dadabhai Kavasji, proprietor of the still later newspaper, the *Akhbore Soudagar*, (= 'The Intelligencer for Merchants'), the later editors of the *Mumbaina Samachar*, namely, Messrs. Temulji Rastamji Mirza, Kavasji Hormasji Mama, also Dastur Aspandiarji Framji Rabadi, Ganpat Krishnaji (a Hindu), Dinyarji Kaioji Mirza,—all these were amongst the many who have been Fardunji's pupils. With Mounstuart Elphinstone, and John Malcolm, former Governors of Bombay, Fardunji was on most intimate terms of acquaintance. So he was with Thomas Richard Goodwin, Dr. John Taylor, and the famous Rev. Dr. Wilson.

During his journalistic career, Fardunji Murzbanji devoted his attention as a merchant, trading with China and Calcutta, and owned a ship, the brigg *Hindustan*. The *Cama Bag*,—now exclusively used for many a Parsi marriage,—was his place of residence. Khetwadi, where this Cama Bag is situated, was then, as the name indicates, a locality used for purposes of cultivation. No roads existed therein, and Fardunji built them, with the permission of Government to levy a small tax on vehicles using these roads.

His studies in English, Zend, and Pahlavi, Fardunji continued even in the midst of his heavy journalistic and mercantile avocations. He studied medicine under some well-known European and Indian medical practitioners. His *Shareer Shanti* (= 'Preservation of Health,' as Government later on calls it), bears evidence of this fact, and its Preface indicates his deep knowledge of medicine.

As a social reformer, the *Mumbaina Samachar* bears testimony to his devotion to the cause of reforms amongst his countrymen and his co-religionists. When the space at his disposal, in his journal itself, did not suffice for his requirements, he published tracts, pamphlets, and brochures; and, with the permission of the Parsi Panchayat, he circulated them broad-cast, and free of charge. On behalf of members of his caste,—the clergy,—he had fought with might and main. For vaccination, his services to Government, through the medium of his newspaper, and even of detached tracts, are too well-known. The vices of Hindu *Mahrajas* (= 'high-priests'), widow re-marriages, *Satee*, (the burning alive of a wife on the funeral pyre of her husband), Freemasonry,—all these were among the subjects to which he devoted his time and pen in the columns of his newspaper, and even out of it.

Thus, from a book-binder to a proprietor of the first Gujarati, and second vernacular journal, Fardunji rose to a position which well furnishes an object-lesson for Smiles' *Self-help*.

Of the *Kabiseh* controversy, enough has been said in Miss Menant's *Les Parsis*. Fardunji's share in it was immense. The *Mumbaina Samachar* threw open its columns to both sides of the controversy, though he himself was a staunch supporter of the *Kabiseh*. It may be noted here that this *Kabiseh* controversy was the starting-point, in Indian Journalism, inaugurated by natives of the soil, for questions, appertaining to religions, to be discussed in newspapers.

But this controversy,—of the *Kabiseh*,—brought about Fardunji Murzban's downfall. It is narrated, in one of his life-sketches (in Gujarati), that, in this so-called religious controversy, he fell a martyr to the many conspiracies which were then hatched, by either side to the controversy. One instance of such conspiracies has been cited by me in the course of the chapter, on "Population," in *Les Parsis*, to show how, as it is alleged, Broach passed into the hands of the British, by the machinations of one of the most leading of the controversialists of the *Kabiseh* question. When Fardunji was found undeterred in carrying out his determination to expose, in his newspaper, a certain important matter affecting the oppositionists, he was threatened with the ruination of self and his newspaper. Fearlessly, he pulled out his *pad'm*, (a sacred insignia of ecclesiastical office, used by Parsi priests to cover half their face, notably the lips, while engaged in the performance of religious ceremonies); he held it forward, saying that the *pad'm* was still left to him, and which no man on earth could snatch

from him ; that, that *padàn* would enable him to earn his livelihood, if need be. When he eventually found that he did fall a victim to the machinations of his enemies in the *Kabiseh* controversy, when he found that scandalous rumours relating to him were set afloat by them, he hastened to publish a paragraph in the *Bombay Courier*, of 21st July 1831, and notified that he was “making the necessary inquiries for the authors of such report,” and was “determined to prosecute them when discovered.” The trite saying is: “Adversity comes not singly.” And so it happened in Fardunji’s case. He sacrificed his newspaper, his printing press, his ship, his lands and house, to meet his creditors’ demands,—creditors set upon him by his enemies in the *Kabiseh* controversy. Financial losses, in his mercantile undertakings, soon precipitated these sacrifices. He fell into the snares of his seemingly warm friends, but traitors at heart. A list, of what he was master of, is in the possession of one of the members of his family, shewing that had Fardunji not succumbed to their evil advice, every pie of his debts could have been paid off, with a large surplus left on hand, to enable him to pass the last days of his life in ease and comfort. The evil advice was : that he should leave Bombay for only a short sojourn in close vicinity to Bombay. And Bombay he left for a suburb near it. His absence, in this suburb of Bassein, was used as a handle for completing his ruin, for giving his arch-traitor friends an opportunity to advice his seeking shelter still further away and

in a more distant land. And Fardunji again followed their advice! In the Portuguese territory, on the 11th of October 1832, he sought protection from further harassment and injury. The Portuguese Governor of the time befriended him. With well-nigh eighty rupees, he had started at one end of his career in life. With eighty rupees in hand,—the help of a staunch and loyal friend,—he reached the other end of that career. The first Parsi Baronet, Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai, befriended him to bring him back to Bombay. But all in vain. As one writer has said, “he had a chance of retrieving his fortune, if he had bent the knee to Baal, but he maintained his sturdy independence to the last, and bore himself through his sore trials with dignity and straightforwardness.” Due to this “sturdy independence” and his extreme sensitiveness,—the evil genii of his family!—he refused to return to the former scenes of his successes as a journalist, as a merchant, a social and religious reformer.

In the distant place of his refuge, he preferred to start life over again; and there he set up type and litho: printing presses, at the request of the Portuguese Governor who had given him a welcome. Here his previous knowledge and experience stood him in good stead. Devoid of any skilled assistance, he employed two of his sons,—who had now attained manhood,—as he had employed the women-kind of his family when he started his first printing press in Bombay. As Bombay,—in British India,—was the scene of his labours, so was Damman in Portuguese India. In 1833, on Portuguese soil,

he printed, for the first time, two small Persian books, and, later on, a Gujarati translation of one of them. He exported the produce of his intellectual labours to Bombay and Surat. Training the Portuguese and other natives, of the country of his adoption, in the art of printing, as he had trained others in Bامbay, he utilised their services. Just as he had commenced with book-binding in Bombay, so he did in Portuguese India. Fardunji, as it were, commenced life over again at the age of forty-five, and went through all the worries, all the cares, and all the anxieties over again, in Damman, as he had to in Bombay. As in Bombay, so in Damman, he made his own matrices for types, and used his own devices for wooden hand-presses. As in Bombay, so in Damman, the ladies of his house assisted him in the shaping and polishing of the types. He started also a postal-service for Portuguese India, as he did for British India. But, to Bombay, he would never return. The memory of his past greatness, of the treachery of his so-called friends,—was too keen, his own and his family sensitiveness, his sense of self-respect were too acute to let him reconcile himself to such an idea. In the tending of the sick and the suffering-poor, he found solace. His knowledge of medicine, he utilized in the land of his adoption. From all over Gujarat, they visited him for advice and assistance, and, till the end of his life, his house was a printing-house and a hospital,—for food for the mind, for nourishment for the body. Remuneration for the practice of medical art, he

persisted in refusing to receive till the last. About the year 1845, the chief medical-officer of the Bombay European General Hospital happened to be in Damman, and was attacked with brain-fever. Beyond the reach of able medical relief,—in those days of no-railways,—he could not receive any assistance but that of Fardunji, who sent the officer, hale and hearty, back to Bombay; and a life-long correspondence between them ensued. As travelling by main-road meant the arrival of patients sometimes in the dead of night, to receive them, his doors were kept open, day and night. As the *Times of India* says:—"By his works of charity and benevolence, he had so endeared himself to the people in and around Daman, that, upto this day, his name is remembered with esteem and gratitude in those parts." He was considered an expert in the treatment of Cholera, and, in an out-break in 1842, his services were recognised in most eulogistic terms by the Portuguese Government, at whose request Fardunji brought his knowledge to bear upon the subject, and, from house to house, were circulated printed "Precautions" to be taken by the inhabitants too keep out this dire disease. In 1841, W. H. Morris, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, indited an official letter to Fardunji's eldest son, Kavasji, informing the latter: his "father deserves every credit not only for his diligence and research in compiling the "Preserver of Health," [the *Sharir-Shanti*, of Fardunji] but also for the liberal tone of ideas which he displays, and for many valuable precepts, which

he gives as to the futility of Charms, Incantation, etc.,—precepts which may be of much use to his Parsi and Hindu Brethern.” After taking a note of the “many approved modern remedies” embodied in this medical work, the Secretary to Government observes: “In regard to the universal preparations, Government are of opinion that your father has shown a correct judgment in confining himself to those used by European Practitioners, in as much as the mineral remedies, in use in Native practice, are uncertain in their effects and often dangerously violent.” In making some suggestions for a 2nd edition of the work, the Secretary observes: “The Hon’ble the Governor-in-Council is pleased to subscribe for 25 copies of the work at rupees seven per copy, but desires me to suggest the desirability of rendering it into Mahratee, and to inform you, that if this be done, Government will have the Mahrattee version lithographed free of cost to you, and present you with a portion of the impression.” To promote confidence of the natives of the country, in which he was now residing, and as no vaccine was available in sufficient quantity, Fardunji used to send one or other of his children and grandchildren, to Broach and Surat, to be there vaccinated, and from them he used to utilise the vaccine for his town and surrounding numerous villages.

Thus, gradually, Fardunji surrounded himself, in and around Damman, just as he did in Bombay, with friends and allies in his printing work, in his medical undertakings, and once again, in the cause of his religion,—Udwada, the final resting

place of the great *Iran-Shah* (the most ancient Fire-temple, the *Atashbeheram*, in India), being only a very short distance from the town he resided in.

As a social-reformer, among the Parsis, Fardunji was amongst the very few pioneers of his time. As the *Times of India*, (18th January 1899), says, "he was a herald of social and religious reform among the Parsees, at a time when they were steeped in ignorance and superstition, and was never daunted, in his advocacy of it, by the fierce opposition which he encountered."

The Cama family followed in his wake ; and to that family, it was Fardunji Murzban who addressed a memorandum comprising the best and safest lines, of social reforms, on which they were to proceed. In marriage reforms, he lent the assistance of his *Mumbaina Samachar*, from as early a date as 1823. He was an advocate for educating,—but not for over-educating,—the women of the country. He did not merely preach. He practised it even before he preached. The care and well-being of his own family preceded the care and well-being of his community. He *first* educated the women of his own family in Gujarati reading and writing, even after they had become mothers of many children ; and advocacy for a similar education in his community followed the example he thus set to others. He knew what was taking place in his family as much as he did in connection with his community.

He was an accomplished prose and verse writer in Gujarati of the best kind, so much so that Claudius James Erskine, the head of a large Government Department, in Surat, and who, later on, rose to become a member of the Legislative Councils of Bombay and Calcutta, offered a post to Fardunji, if he cared to accept one under him, in order to instruct the subordinates in the use of Gujarati as used by Fardunji.

The cares and anxieties relating to the future of his children was ever a matter for deep consideration ; and, in 1841, he started his three sons, Kavasji, Behramji, and Mehervanji, in the same line of work to which he had devoted the best part of his own life. He gave them a start in opening a printing press in Bombay. This was the *Daftar Ashkara Press*, where the famous social-reformer, the *Rast Gofar* weekly, was subsequently printed and published. The translations of many a book,—notably in Persian,—used to be sent by him from Damman to Bombay, to be there printed by his sons.

On March 4, 1847, Fardunji appears to have had a presentiment of the approaching end of his career in this world ; for, on that day, he made his last will and testament,—a document in itself a testimony to his sagacity and fore-sight. It embodies exhortations and advice, to his heirs and family, in terms almost unknown in those days. His greatest care, in that document, is that for

the future conduct of his children⁽⁴⁾ and grandchildren, in affairs of this life, in matters domestic and religious, and even of religious ceremonies. In fact, it is a sermon replete with sage counsel. For every penny of what little he owed to others, he left instructions. He breathed his last on the 23rd of March 1847. His press, (now the *Mumbai Samachar*), his newspaper, (the *Mumbaina Samachar*), and even his *Panchang*,—now all in hands other than those of his family,—still exist and thrive,—a rare and unique fate in the history of the printing-presses and newspapers of India. An idealized portrait of him remains,—the secret, as to how it has been procured, remains only with a few among his family survivors of the present generation.⁽⁵⁾ It is this portrait that has been, for the first time, published herein.


The following is a complete list of Fardunji Murzban's works:—(1) A *Panchang*, or *Almanac* (1814). (2) *Dabestan-ul-Majaheb*, (1st ed., 1817 : 2nd ed. 1835 : 3rd ed., 1846). (3) *Gausit'a-ni-utpati, tatha tena goono*, ('Vaccination: Its origin and its advantages'); (1825). (4) *Pandnameh*, of Mulla

4.—He had nine daughters and three sons.

5.—Two books, in the Gujarati language, have been published, containing a biographical sketch of Fardunji Murzban's life and life-work. The first that was published was under the *nom de plume* of 'Minocheher Khorshed'; the second book, also in Gujarati, is by Kaikobad Behramji Marzban, B. A., (Printed, in 1898, at the "Jam-e-Jamshed" Press.)

Feroz. (Its Gujarati translation in 1834). (5) *Gulestan*, of Sadi: (Its Gujarati translation) (1st ed. 1838; 2nd ed. 1849). (6) *Shareer Shanti*: (a book of medicine) (1841). (7) *Adale Kavi*, (Gujarati translation) (1841) (In Manuscript). (8) An essay on the calculation of the *Jamshedi Naoroz*, (1841), (In manuscript). (9) *Mukhtesar Shahnameh*, (Gujarati translation, in verses, of a portion of Firdousi's *Shah-Nameh*) (1843) (10) *Kisseh-e-Tajul-mulk*, (1843), (11) Verses, in Persian, about the successes of Ardeshar Dhanjishah Bahadur of Surat. (1845) (12) Verses, in Persian, on the Cawasji Beheramji Banaji's Firetemple. (1846). (13) *Bostan*. (Translation, in Gujarati, of Sadi's *Bostan*). (1849). (14) History of a few of the Iranian Kings. (In Verse) (1840). The last two were the writer's posthumous works). (15) A collection of contributions to the *Kabiseh* controversy.

The following works were published under his supervision :—(1) *Hadesah-nameh*, (2) *Hadie-Gomrahan*, (3) *Kisseh-e-Gool-ba-Sanobar*, (4) Translation of the seventy-eight *Ravayets*, (5) *Danesh-nameh-i-Jehan*, (6) Gujarati translation of the *Desatir*, (7) *Ressale-e-Este-Shahadat*, (8) *Pancho-pakhian*, (9) *Rag-sthan Pothi*, (10) Translation of Guthrie and Murray's Grammar, (11) *Sansar Chopdi*, (12) *Avijehdin Setayashe-Sheeruz*, (13) *Ankganit*, (14) *Burhan-e-kateh*, (15) *Amadan-Nameh*, and *Karima*, (16) *Khordeh Avesta*, and (17) *Burhan-e-Kateh*.





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KHAN BAHADUR
MUNCHERJI COWASJI MURZBAN, C.I.E.

ખાનખાહાદુર મનચેરજી કાવસજી મરઝખાન, સી. આઈ. ઈ.

KHAN BAHADUR

MUNCHERJI COWASJI MURZBAN,

C. I. E., M. INST. C. E., F R. I. B. A., J. P.

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* Through an evident error on p. 74 of the text, the year 1899 has been given. It should be 1890.—M. M. M.

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Photo in 1910



Photo in 1896.

KHAN BAHADUR MUNCHERJI COWASJI MURZBAN.

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ખાનબાહાદુર મનચેરજી કાવસજી મરઝબાન.

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Readers, of *Leaves from the Life of Khan Bahadur Muncherji
Cowasji Murzban, C. I. E.*, will kindly note the following
corrections and additions :—

PAGE 22, Line 7,—For ‘Bambay’ read ‘Bombay.’

PAGE 23, Line 24,—For ‘too’ read ‘to.’

PAGE 24, Line 1,—For ‘Incantation’ read ‘Incantations’

PAGE 31, Line 19,—*Delete* the foot-note figure ‘(6)’ and place it
next the words ‘Engineering School,’ in line 24 of that
page: the Institution, referred to in the footnote, being
the ‘Engineering School,’ and *not* the ‘Poona College,’
as erroneously stated by me.

PAGE 31, in footnote 6,—for ‘Padamji Hall’ read ‘Padamji
House.’

PAGE 37, Line 20,—The ‘letter to the Superintending Engineer,
Poona,’ is dated 11th August 1863.

PAGE 42, Lines 5 to 7,—For the words : ‘such as has not been the
good fortune of any other members of his Department
who may have risen through the ranks as has Muncherji,’
read ‘such as has not been the good fortune of any other
member to receive, and who may have risen through the
ranks as has Muncherji.’

PAGE 42, in line 16,—*delete* the full-stop after ‘Bombay,’ and
read ‘The’ as ‘the.’

PAGE 50,—The ‘letter’ referred to, in line 3, is dated 22nd May
1872.

PAGE 53, Line 6,—For ‘as’ read ‘an.’

PAGE 57, in line 13,—For ‘as an occasion’ read ‘as occasion.’

PAGE 63,—The ‘installation,’ referred to in line 13, was in 1875.

PAGE 64, in line 2,—For ‘Photograph’ read ‘photograph.’

PAGE 67,—The Allbless obstetric Hospital, referred to in the
second paragraph, was opened on 8th April 1891.

PAGE 74,—As already noted (by way of correction), in the ‘List
of Contents of the Life-sketch of Muncherji C. Murzban,
(pages IV *et seq.*), the year ‘1899,’ given in line 12 of
page 74, should be read as ‘1890.’

PAGE 75, in line 14,—*delete* ‘the.’

PAGE 77, Line 3,—For ‘very happily termed’ read ‘very happily,
termed’.

PAGE 81, Line 21,—For ‘photographs of most the buildings,’ read
‘photographs of most of the buildings.’

PAGE 82,—As already noted, (by way of correction), at foot of
page VII, “List of Illustrations,” *delete* the asterisk*
printed near item No. 3 in the “List of Buildings con-
structed by M. C. Murzban.” Also, it should be noted
that the buildings, enumerated in this latter List, were
either superintended or designed by M. C. Murzban,
while he was either Assistant Engineer or Presidency
Executive Engineer.

PAGE 84,—In the same List, on page 84, an asterisk* should have
been placed near item No. 17 for the “Framji Din-
shaw Petit Laboratory for Scientific Medical Research,”
as this building also was designed by M. C. Murzban.

PAGE 88, Line 1,—For “Byramji Jeejeebhoy Parsi Benevolent
Institution” read “Byramji Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable
Institution.”

PAGE 88,—In the last paragraph it should be noted that when
M. C. Murzban was appointed, for the first time, as
Executive Engineer, in the Bombay Municipal De-
partment, on a salary of Rs. 1,200 and when re-
appointed for the “further and second period of five
years, on a salary of Rs. 1,500 per month,”—these
monthly emoluments were *exclusive* of the pension he
was drawing for past services as Engineer in the Public
Works Department of the Government of Bombay.

PAGE 109,—In footnote marked with an asterisk* *delete* the word
“of Members.”

PAGE 109,—In footnote marked thus † for the words ‘by way
of Grants-in-Aid’ etc.’ read ‘by way of “Grants-in-
Aid” etc.’

PAGE 110, Line 7—for the words “as such for life” read “as
such, for life.”

PAGE 111, Line 16,—For “Mr. Murzban, established” read
“Mr. Murzban established.”

PAGE 112, In footnote line 2,—for “Wing” read “wing.”

KHAN BAHADUR

MUNCHERJI COWASJI MURZBAN,

C. I. E., M. INST. C. E., F. R. I. B. A., J. P.

The second subject, among my life-sketches of members of the Murzban family, is Khan Bahadur Muncherji Cowasji Murzban, the eldest son of Fardunji's eldest son Cowasji. It can be easily understood why I shall have to handle the sketch of Muncherji's life with a certain degree of reticence and reserve. This much I must, at once, state here, that, more than Fardunji,—the hero of my foregoing sketch,—Muncherji's life furnishes an object-lesson in "Self-Help," he being one of those who have risen, from the lowest rung of the ladder of Government service, to the highest that was reachable at the period of his career as Executive Engineer, Presidency, terminating in a very well-earned pension.

He was born on the 7th of July 1839, (corresponding to the Parsi 11th day, (Khorshed), Kadmi month Bahaman of the Yazdezardi year 1208), in Bombay, in the house of his maternal grand-father.

He was only about three years and a half of age, when his mother Hambaiji, (daughter of Dorabji Chandaru, and sister of the well-known Gujarati journalist Naoroji Dorabji Chandaru, (otherwise

surnamed 'Harkaru') died, on the 17thth day of the 6th Kadmi month of the Yazdezardi year 1211, in Bombay. On her demise, his paternal grand-father Fardunji and grand-mother Kubarbai took him to Damman, where he was brought up with very great love, affection, and care. When old Fardunji died, on the 23rd of March 1847, Muncherji was only about eight years old. The death of his protector brought about his removal to Bombay, to live with his father Kavasji and step-mother Navajbai, (daughter of Edalji Pandol).

In those days, marriages, among Parsis, took place at a very early age, just as among Hindus even of the present day, and so Muncherji was married, on the 6th of March 1853, to his cousin Gulbai, daughter of Darajee Kyojee Mirza, and Mithibai daughter of Fardunji Murzbanji. This was at the age of 14 years, Gulbai being about eighteen months older than Muncherji.

On his arrival from Damman he was placed in a private English school of one Mr. Roberts; and, after a short training there, Muncherji's father thought of placing him in the Elphinstone Institution. But, as admission was not possible therein without a preliminary knowledge of Gujarati and Arithmetic, he was placed under the tuition of one Murlidhar, a Hindu. Among some of this mehtaji's (village-school master's) accomplishments, he had that of holding conversation by signs and symbols of the hands and fingers, *i. e.* by the deaf-and-dumb alphabet. So that, every evening, he used to give



Photo in 1914



Mrs. MUNCHERJI C. MURZBAN.

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[Times Press.

lessons in that art to sundry people, and quite a crowd of outsiders used to get together to watch the pupils, of his class receiving their lessons in that subject. After a brief stay in this school, Muncherji was admitted into the Elphinstone Institution, after he was subjected to an examination by professor Patton. After he had studied right up to the highest class, his father, with his family, removed to settle in Poona, in about 1853 or 1854, leaving Muncherji in Bombay, in the care of his paternal-uncles Behramji and Mehervanji, proprietors of the Daftar Ashkara Press and *Rast Goftar*, a weekly newspaper. But, a few months later, he was called away to live with his father, at Poona, where he was placed in the highest form of what was then known as the Poona College Branch School.

After a year's study therein, he was admitted into the Poona College,⁶ (now known as the Deccan College). His professors were: the Rev. James McDougall, (a Doctor of Divinity), and Professor William Draper. After three months of training under them, he joined the Poona Engineering School, which was then the only institution of its kind. He was a great favourite of Rev. McDougall, who was professor of Mathematics in the Poona Engineering School, of which General Walter Scott was the then principal. It was professor McDougall

6.—The house, where in this institution was then located, is now in existence, and is situated next to ' Padamji Hall,' in Bhawaneepet, Poona.

who strongly recommended a training in Engineering ; but Muncherji's father was averse to it ; and so Rev. McDougall called on the old gentleman and coaxed him into a consent to let the young man join the Engineering School. After a course of long training there, the young pupil went up for his examination for the Government Public Works Department. The Standing Committee of examiners consisted of professors Rev. Dr. McDougall and Capt. P. L. Hart, of the Engineers Corps. They declared him as having, (on 10th October. 1855), " creditably " passed his examination. But some time elapsed, before orders were received from Government to find him a berth in the Engineering Department. Becoming impatient at the delay that ensued, his father, in 1857, placed the son in the office of the Brigade-Major of the Poona Cantonment, for about six months. Very much pleased with this young candidate's aptitude for work, this officer started him on a salary of Rs. 20 per month. Soon after, orders were issued by Government to place him in the Public Works Department, and (on the 3rd of February 1857), he was posted as probationary sub-overseer and builder. The very next day, he was deputed to Ambegaum, near Poona, by the Chief Engineer, where Capt. Hart had his camp, for the purpose of making a " survey " for the supply of water to the Cantonment. After about four months' work,—during which period he did the contour and other work, and assisted in the trigonometrical survey of the lands situate between Ambegaum and Poona,—when the rainy season set



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The Rev. JAMES MCDOUGALL, D.D.

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[Times Press.

in, the camp was removed to Poona. In Poona, he was employed to prepare plans, from the survey made by him, and the estimates for the water-works for the Poona cantonment.

Though Capt. Hart was somewhat of a stern disposition, yet, being very clever in his work and efficient in official correspondence, Muncherji had opportunities to learn a good deal of his work, and, in fact, it may be said that the foundation of his professional training was laid under the ægis of that officer. When the latter reverted to his duties, as Executive Engineer, Poona and Kirkee, after the water-works survey was over, he carried Muncherji with him to that office. At that period, there were five to seven probationers in that office, of whom one was a Parsi, and a report was made to Government to have them removed elsewhere. Capt. Hart's words, with reference to them, were very striking: "They have congregated in one place; they do nothing and learn nothing." He recommended that only Muncherji, and one other surveyor, be placed under him.

Capt. Hart's abilities brought him the high appointment of Chief Engineer of the province of Sindh. On the eve of his proceeding to take charge of his new office, he made, (on the 17th of May 1858), the following record with reference to his subordinate Muncherji: "A steady, attentive young man, willing and obliging, and ready to turn his hand to anything he is told to do."

It is no exaggeration to observe here, that,

from the very beginning of his professional career, Muncherji exerted his best to give satisfaction to his superiors, and of which fact the above cited record may be pointed as, practically, his first 'certificate.'

On 3rd August 1855, his only daughter Mithibai, (afterwards married to Jehangir Dhanjibhai Muga-seth, of Calicut), was born; and, on 15th August 1857, his only son, Murzban was born.

Capt. Hart was succeeded, consecutively, by two or three other Executive Engineers; and then came Capt. G. Close, to be permanently appointed, whose "good graces" Muncherji was not slow in acquiring. When the Bombay Government Public Works Department was organised, (for the first time), Muncherji was appointed, in it, Probationary Assistant Overseer (on 1st May 1858). In his report of 9th May 1860, we find Capt. Close writing as follows to Government:

"Probationary Assistant Overseer Muncherji Cowasji is a promising young man. He has, for several months past, been in charge of the Civil buildings near camp, and in the City, and the Government buildings at Daporee [near Poona]. I beg strongly to recommend Muncherji for promotion. He is careful, works hard, he is most attentive to his duties, and always ready to oblige and assist others, whether above or below him."

Beginning with this small charge of buildings appertaining to the Civil Departments, in Poona,

he was eventually placed, (on the 16th of July 1861), in the more responsible and extensive charge of the military buildings in Kirkee and of the Government House at Daporee. Simultaneously, he was called upon to construct two barracks for married soldiers, within the limits of Kirkee cantonment. It was a work requiring great expedition, because their old quarters were in a dilapidated condition. As no contractor would undertake to finish the work within the prescribed period, Muncherji undertook to do the same departmentally, despite his very immature experience in that direction. He succeeded in finishing the works within the period of six months. Capt. Close makes the following comments with reference thereto :

“ Probationary Assistant Overseer Muncherji Cowasji has been in charge of all the works at Kirkee and Daporee since Sergeant Andrews was remanded to the Corps in December last, and I cannot speak too highly of the assistance he has given me in carrying out the Patcherries [married men’s barracks]. He has been untiring in his endeavour to procure labour and materials for these heavy works, and he has been completely successful, and to him I consider the chief praise is due for the rapid progress of these Patcherries. He is perfectly *au fait* at his work, and I must certainly say that I never had an overseer under me, since I have been in the service, who has ever rendered me more assistance. He should be promoted at once, but on this I must write more at length.”

About this time, Muncherji had a great deal

of work to do, such as repairs to the Wellesley bridge, in Poona, the maintenance of the high-road between Daporee and Poona, of all the buildings situate in the cantonment of Kirkee, the construction of six new barracks, shelters for large guns, and a building for a military school-room, erection of two new bridges on the Daporee Road, and the Daporee Estate, wherein the Governor of Bombay used to reside in those days, when in Poona. This has been evidenced by Capt. Close in his report as follows :

“ Assistant Overseer Muncherji Cowasji has been in charge of the Daporee buildings, of all the buildings at Kirkee (including the new Patcherries), and the Bombay-road between the Wellesley bridge and Daporee, and the Kirkee roads. The charge has been a large one and onerous. I can add but little to what I said about this young man, since my last report. He has given me entire satisfaction, and I hope, when opportunity offers, he may be promoted. He sets a good example by reading the professional books of the day.”

A still later Report (for 1862-63) speaks for itself, and runs as follows :

“ Mr. Muncherji Cowasji has been as assiduous in his duties as ever, on the buildings at Kirkee, including the new barracks, Patcherries, Government buildings at Daporee, roads in Kirkee cantonment, main-road between the Sungum and Daporee. The road from Daporee to Holkar's Bridge, and the road between the latter bridge and Murray's Bridge, besides pulling down, widening, and raising

two bridges between the Sungum and Murray's Bridge have all been under his charge. Re-constructing these two bridges was a matter of much anxiety to me, lest they should not be ready by the rains. It has been only by the greatest energy on his part that the work has advanced so rapidly, and I am much indebted to him for all the trouble he has been and is still taking with them. He is a most efficient overseer, and, as I reported last year, richly deserving of promotion."

It is somewhat interesting to note here, that, for the responsibilities he was entrusted with, at this period, Muncherji was drawing a salary of rupees eighty !!

About this period, Government decided to construct what was called the Poona Gun-powder Works. Capt. Close proposed to place this work in Muncherji's charge. but, as he was then drawing only Rs. 80, he was recommended, in the following letter to the Superintending Engineer, Poona, for promotion to Rs. 250 :

"In continuation of my letter to your address, No. 1116, dated the 18th of May last, I beg to state that, in case of my not being able to obtain tenders for the construction of the Gun-Powder Factory Buildings at Daporee, I shall be prepared to carry on the works departmentally, provided I be allowed to retain the services of Mr. Muncherji Cowasji, Assistant Overseer, P. W. D., to superintend the same.

“(2) With his assistance, I am of opinion that I could complete the Powder Works in $2\frac{1}{2}$ years' time; but, to ensure success in this instance, I would recommend that Mr. Muncherji be promoted to the rank and pay of sub-engineer, 3rd class.

“(3) The importance of the early completion of the Gun-Powder Factory buildings must be my excuse for urging this arrangement as a special case. Should there be no vacancy at present of sub-engineer, 3rd class, I beg to suggest that Mr. Muncherji be appointed an extra sub-engineer of that class, until a vacancy occurs.

“(4) Mr. Muncherji Cowasji is a man in whose zeal and ability I can trust, accustomed to deal with natives, able to procure any amount of work-people on account of his long residence at Poona. I can depend upon him for completing these Powder Works in the least possible time, (and the Gun-Carriage Factory buildings too, if necessary).

“(5) If the question be asked why the overseer could not carry out the works as rapidly on his present pay, my answer is, he will assume a responsibility which I am of opinion should be adequately rewarded.

“(6) If the works are to be carried out by contract, still, I maintain, that to superintend them effectually, the services of an Assistant Engineer should be placed at my disposal, to be all day on the spot, so that the arrangement I have proposed would still be a measure of economy.

“(7) I believe my estimates are sufficient for

the works, but if the latter are to be pushed on with any extraordinary haste, as an unusual emergency, I trust you will recommend that I may not be held responsible for exceeding the estimates, provided I can show just cause for the excess and prove satisfactorily that such excess did not arise from neglect or carelessness.

“(8) Pending your reply, I defer answering your memo. No. 3143, dated 23rd instant.”

The Rev. James McDougall, professor of the Poona College and Engineering School, retired in this year (1872). A fund was raised in order to establish a scholarship in memory of his services. An address, by his quondam students, was read by Muncherji.

In the August of 1863, the Educational Department applied for Muncherji's services, as, at that time, it was proposed to open, in Ahmedabad, a Provincial College for Gujarat, and his services were to be utilized for delivering lectures on the subject of Engineering. But as the P. W. D. could not spare him, the idea fell through, probably also because the idea of founding the College had been abandoned.

The year 1863 appears to have been a turning-point in the career of Muncherji, because we find, that, in that year, E. I. Howard, Esq., the then Director of Public Instruction, having learnt that a vacancy had arisen for the post of 'Assistant to the Architectural Secretary to the Bombay Rampart Removal Committee,' suggested that Muncherji should apply for that post. Happening to

be a great favourite of that officer, he was highly recommended by him,—who worked hard to secure him that appointment.

Accordingly, (on the 5th of June 1863), Muncherji applied for this post, and Capt. Close very strongly supported the application. It was further supported, in accordance therewith, by Mr. Trubshawe, the then Architectural Secretary to Government, in his letter of 5th June of that year.

It happened that, at about this period, Sir Bartle Frere, Governor of Bombay, was residing at Daporee (near Poona). As per standing orders, Muncherji had to present himself to His Excellency every morning at 6 o'clock. Leaving home at five of early dawn, he had to ride on horse-back from Poona to Daporee. His opportunities for daily contact with Sir Bartle, and consequent exchange of conversations, had brought about a certain amount of a sort of mutuality of confidences ; and thus, one evening, while he was riding home, from Kirkee to Poona, he was overtaken by the carriage of the Governor with Lady Frere and an Aid-de-Camp. His Excellency ordered his carriage to be stopped, and called Muncherji up. He naturally dismounted from his horse, but His Excellency asked him to mount again, and, in course of conversation, observed to him that Government intended to erect a new City of Bombay, for which,—His Excellency said,—an Architect had been specially deputed from England, and that, it was proposed to place him (Muncherji) as his assistant ; and inquired if



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E. I. HOWARD, Esquire,
Director of Public Instruction, Bombay Presidency.

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[Times Press

he was willing to accept that appointment. Muncherji, thoughtlessly, said "yes," on the spur of the moment. As it happened, at this time, Capt. Close had just recommended him for promotion to Rs. 250, as stated above, from the salary he was then drawing, namely, Rs. 80, as reward for general services. The same evening of the interview with Sir Bartle Frere, Capt. Close received a letter from His Excellency, asking him to breakfast with him the next morning. Muncherji had also to accompany him. The previous day's thoughtless "yes" filled him with consternation, as he felt nervous how to mention what had transpired between himself and Sir Bartle, to his immediate superior Capt. Close, who had so often and so well recommended him, particularly in regard to his promotion to Rs. 250. Taking courage in both hands, he opened his heart, guilelessly, to Capt. Close, and informed him of what had transpired between himself and His Excellency. Capt. Close was, of course, a good bit annoyed ; but Muncherji coaxed him over, by putting it to him that, as he (Capt. Close) was shortly proceeding to England on leave, it was uncertain whether his successor would be as kind towards himself as Capt. Close was. Breakfast over, His Excellency led the conversation to the subject of Muncherji's immediate transfer to Bombay, to which idea of His Excellency's—as it afterwards transpired,—Capt. Close had reluctantly agreed. On their way home, he mentioned the Governor's wishes to Muncherji, and said that His Excellency's orders were that he was to start for Bombay the very next day. On the 24th of

August 1863, an official letter, to that effect, was received from Capt. Close, ordering Muncherji to report himself to Mr. Trubshawe at Bombay. This transfer was the beginning of a career which has brought him emoluments, rewards, honours, such as has not been the good fortune of any other member, of his Department, who may have risen through the ranks as has Muncherji.

In Bombay, it was under contemplation to pull down the Ramparts of the old Portuguese Fort, on the Esplanade, and, to build a town on that Esplanade. A Committee, for that purpose, had been appointed. It consisted of: (Col. Delisle, (of the Royal Engineers), Mr. Arthur Crawford, (the Municipal Commissioner), Mr. Charles Forjett, (Police Commissioner, Bombay). The Hon'ble A. K. Forbes, (Judge of the Bombay High Court). The Secretary, to the Committee was Mr. Trubshawe.

By a Resolution dated 5th September 1863, Muncherji was appointed Mr. Trubshawe's assistant, on a salary of Rs. 250. He has been reported to have performed his duties, as assistant to the Architectural Secretary, with great zeal. In course of time, the Rampart Removal Committee was dissolved; and another, called the Architectural Improvement Committee of Bombay, was formed, with Col. J. A. Fuller as Secretary, and Muncherji as his assistant on the same salary. During the tenure of this office, Col. (afterwards General) Fuller wrote numerous letters to Government, recommending him strongly for increase of pay; and, instead of continu-



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GENERAL J. A. FULLER, R.E.

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[Times Press

ing him in the same work, he expressed a wish to see him placed in the grade of assistant engineers. Muncherji was the chief known factor in the reclamation of the land which now forms the Apollo Bunder and portions adjoining the same, whereon have sprung up, in more recent times, the stupendous Taj Mahal Hotel building, and many other buildings. The reclaimed land comprised also the Apollo Basin, on the site of which have now been built the European Yacht Club, and other adjoining buildings. What was then known as the Eastern Boulevard, extending from the Government Mint, (next the Town Hall), right up to the European General Hospital, has also been constructed by Muncherji, in his capacity as Architectural Assistant Engineer.

After his arrival in Bombay, in 1863, he was elected a member of the Lodge Rising Star, and, after taking several 'Degrees,' he was elected 'Master' for two successive years, 1868 and 1869. On the expiry of the tenure of this office, he was presented with a silver-cup and a Past-Master's Jewel, by subscriptions of members of his Lodge. A life-size portrait, in oils, was also placed in the Hall of the Masonic Lodge building, (then situated in Mazagon). He was also elected member of the Grand Lodge of the Scottish Free Masonry, Bombay, and of which he was, later on, elected Substitute Grand Master and Honorary Deputy Grand Master, which offices he has continued to hold. He has been an Honorary Member of the Lodge Rising Sun, Bombay.

When, in September, 1863, the Rampart Removal Committee was dissolved, Government inquired whether Muncherji's services were available for transfer up-country, on less pay than what he was drawing in connection with the Committee. Capt. Fuller replied: "I cannot possibly dispense with Mr. Muncherji Cowasji as I find him most useful on the Reclamations, on either side of the Apollo Pier." This was the first and last attempt to transfer him out of Bombay.

About the year 1864, and thereafter, he lived with his family, in thatched cottages, within the precincts of what was then known as the 'Coopcrage' grounds, and where was situated Mr. Trubshawe's offices.

Mr. Trubshawe, on his giving over charge of Architectural Secretary's appointment, sent in the following report to the Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department, Bombay, on 31st October 1865 :

"Having given over charge of the office of Architectural Secretary to the Rampart Removal Committee, I have the honour to bring, to the notice of Government, the very satisfactory character and qualifications of the late Assistant Mr. Muncherji Cowasji. (2) During the whole of the period he served with me, from 27th August 1863 to the 7th of August 1865, he was at all times most assiduous in attention to his duties, and I was led to observe that the general knowledge of building operations and official routine eminently

fit him for such employment in the Public Works Department. (3) My testimony is thus willingly added to confirm the favourable notice he had already earned during his previous services, both for the efficient discharge of the duties entrusted to him and for his general character, which I believe to be good and exceptionable in every respect."

While Mr. Trubshawe was Architectural Secretary, his colleague was Mr. Roger Smith, professor of Architecture in the King's College, London, who had come down to Bombay for a short while. Under him, Muncherji took some training in Architecture.

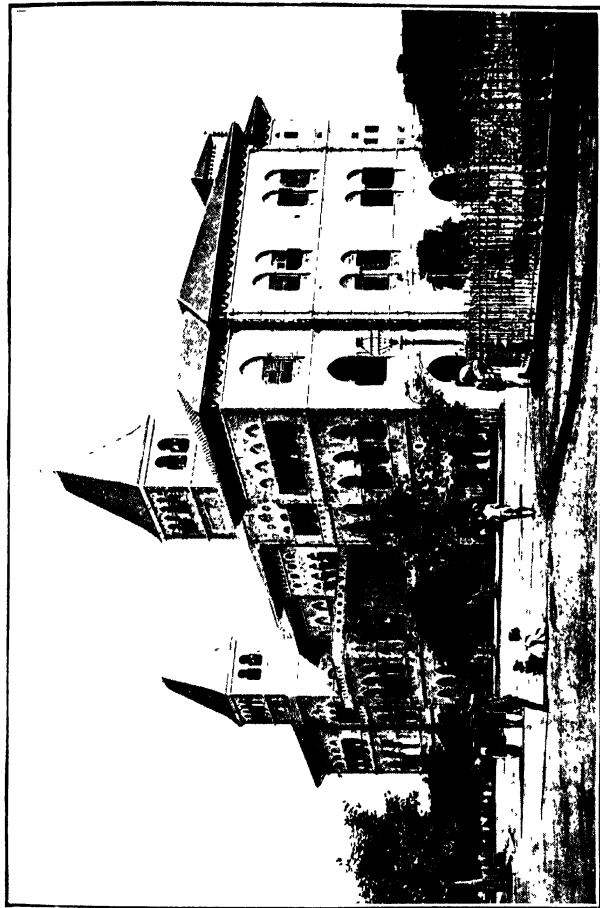
In 1866, (9th of February), his services were transferred to the Executive Engineer, Bombay Harbour Defences, who had been entrusted with the construction of Battery Works. Six months later, Muncherji was gazetted Assistant Architectural Engineer and Surveyor to Government, Bombay. On the 12th of July 1866, the Government of India confirmed the appointment.

In 1869, (22nd May), in a meeting held in the Framji Cowasji Institute, Bombay, he was appointed a member of the Committee of the Bombay Branch of the East India Association.

Col. Fuller, (on 26th May 1869), recommended to Government that the appointment of Assistant Engineer be conferred upon Vasudev Bapuji Kanitkar, Makund Ramchandra, and Muncherji Cowasji

Murzban, without calling upon them to undergo any examination. The former two had been in grades higher than the last mentioned official ; and so, these two were, as recommended, promoted to assistant engineers. Col. Fuller, in his said recommendatory letter, had detailed all the appointments hitherto held by Muncherji. Failing compliance with Col. Fuller's wishes and recommendations, he again, (on the 26th of August 1870), submitted to Government another report in which he set forth the circumstance that Muncherji had passed, before the Poona Standing Committee, all the examinations necessary to be undergone by assistant engineers, except certain practical subjects in which Muncherji had,—he said,—proved himself efficient. He further represented :

“Whilst employed in the Districts, and at Poona, Mr Muncherji, as it appears from his testimonials, had to perform multifarious and responsible duties, and had charge of large and important works, such as designing and erecting buildings, roads, and bridges, and, in the performance of which duties, he has acquired the highest encomiums from his superior officers. He is now in charge of important architectural buildings, the new Post Office and the Native General Hospital, in the erection of which buildings, a great amount of architectural and engineering knowledge is required. He has lately completed the Sassoon Mechanics' Institute, and an inspection of the building will satisfy you, [i. e., the Superintending Engineer], that the work



Built in 1872]

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BUILDING FOR THE GENERAL POST OFFICES.

(Since 1913, used as an Adjunct of the Government Telegraph Offices.)

જનરલ પોસ્ટ ઓફિસ માટે બંધાયેલી ઇમારત.

(જે હાલમાં તાર ઓફિસની ઇમારતના એક ભાગ તરીકે વપરાય છે.)

[Times Press.

could not have been better done. Besides these buildings, he has to superintend eleven private buildings, on the Esplanade, under me as Surveyor to Government, and is likewise, of the greatest assistance to me in this branch of my duties."

Not having received a favourable attention, Col. Fuller again approached Government, (on 9th May 1871), stating that Muncherji's abilities were on a par with, and in fact, on some points, superior to those of Messrs. Vasudev Bapuji and Makund Ramchandra. In these days, however clever Indian officials were, in the P. W. D., it was a matter of extreme difficulty to see them placed in the ranks of even assistant engineers. And so was Muncherji's fate, despite the ever so many and strong recommendations of his superior, Col. Fuller. And it was not until 1872, that he was appointed Assistant Engineer in the graded list of the P. W. D., "a rare distinction at the time," as observed by one of the journals in which his life-sketches have, from time to time, appeared.

Among the several public buildings, built near about the Flora Fountain, under the superintendence of Muncherji (either as Assistant or as Executive Engineer),—a list of which has been inserted in its proper place here,—the General Post Office building,—(since 1914 used as an adjunct to the General Telegraph Office), was one. The plans of this building had been prepared, in England, by an English architect. The ground-floor was so designed as to throw all the weight of the two

upper floors, (each twenty-two feet in height), on to the sub-structure, of the ground-floor, consisting of columns and arches. When the construction of the building was taken in hand, in accordance with the English designs, he duly pointed out, to his superior officer, the weakness of the under-structure. The super-structure of the two upper floors was almost completed, and the roofing had been taken in hand, when the feebleness of the stone-columns became evident. One of them was fractured, through and through, vertically. Apprehensive that publicity would affect the reputation of the P. W. D., Muncherji immediately commenced replacing the fractured column by a new one. Just as he was superintending the operations, in person, the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, (Sir Michael Kennedy), and the Executive Engineer *pro tem*, Mr. Hart, (who was then acting for Col. Fuller, proceeded home), appeared on the scene and noticing the hazardous nature of their subordinate's undertaking, took him to task for not having previously obtained sanction for what he had been doing. This was followed by a letter of reprimand, in reply to which Muncherji stated that he had feared that the failure of the columns would cause alarm and entail a slur on the Public Works Department. Scarcely had the fractured stone-column been replaced, another similar column was noticed fractured. In course of time, four or five such columns were, one after another, found similarly succumbing to the very heavy weight of the super-structures. It was bruited about, in town, that the Post

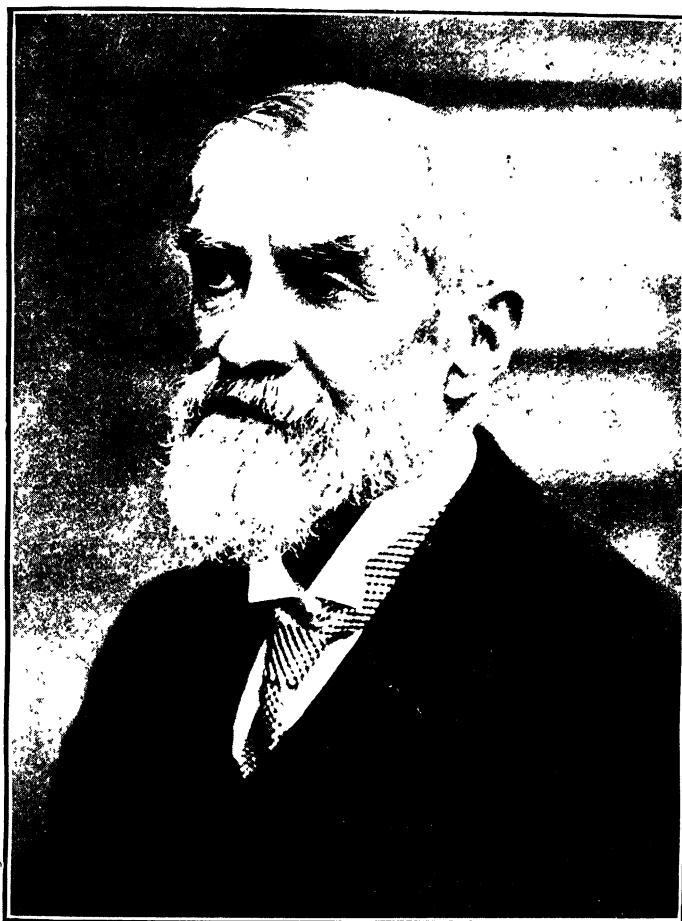
Office building was coming down. Sir Seymour Vesey FitzGerald, G. C. S. I., was then Governor of Bombay. He summoned, to the Government House at Parel, Sir Michael Kennedy and Mr. Hart. Muncherji accompanied them. After discussion, it was decided that, with the two upper-floors (that had been already constructed) remaining in tact, all the eight columns underneath them should be replaced by stronger ones. This work was placed in Muncherji's charge. While the work of displacement was in progress, several Indian and European engineers called to see how this daring undertaking was being carried out. After sleepless nights and several days' unrelenting energy, the work was carried through, and new columns, of larger diameter, were substituted without causing even a single crack or settlement in any of the walls etc., of the super-structure. Sir Michael Kennedy and Mr. Hart also used to visit during the progress of this work; and so pleased were they with the successful carrying out of so risky an undertaking, that the Executive Engineer sent in a very favourable report to Government,—with the result that the right of promotion, which had hitherto been denied to Muncherji, for the past several years, was now accorded to him, and, (on the 2nd of August 1872), he was placed in the 3rd grade of Assistant Engineers, P. W. D.,—"on ground of special merit," as was stated in the Resolution notifying the promotion. But this was a distinction conferred without a difference! The promotion carried no increase in salary, as the 3rd grade minimum was

Rs. 250/- which amount the recipient of the honour was already earning. The transfer to the graded-list was the result of the following letter to the Secretary to Government, P. W. D., from Mr. Hart, who was then acting, for Col. Fuller, as Architectural Executive Engineer and Surveyor to the Bombay Government :

“ I have the honour to report, with reference to my letter No. 259 dated 26th March, to your address that, according to your verbal instructions, on the subject that eight columns (bases, shafts, and caps), constituting the north row of internal columns in the New Post Office, have been replaced as proposed by me in the 18th para. of the above letter.

“(2) The work has been most successfully carried out, under my orders, by Mr. Muncherji Cowasji, Architectural Assistant, and I have very great pleasure to place on record, for your information, my high appreciation of the zeal, care, and skill displayed by this officer during the progress of this critical and anxious undertaking of removing and replacing columns, under the walls and colonnades of a handsome public building of two storeys high.

“(3) I have watched the work closely during its progress, and examined it carefully after completion, yet have not detected a slightest settlement, or disturbances of the work above, and I have no doubt that most of the success of the operation is due to the indefatigable attention bestowed by Mr.



[Page 50.]

J. H. E. HART, Esquire,
Architectural Executive Engineer and Surveyor to the
Government of Bombay.

જે. એચ. ઈ. હાર્ટ

મુંબઈ સરકારના આર્કિટેક્ચરલ એક્ઝીક્યુટિવ એન્જનીયર અને સરવેયર.

[Times Press.]

Muncherji Cowasji to the work during every step of its progress, whether by night or day.

“(4) I venture to hope that it will not be out of place here to remind you of the several previous letters from this office, written both by Col. Fuller and myself, strongly recommending this subordinate for promotion, or rather, I should say, recommending his transfer to the graded list on the same footing as his fellow-assistants, in this office, Messrs. Wassoodeo Bapooji and Muckoond Ramchander, and I trust that you will now see fit to recommend this step to Government at an early date, as it will then appear as a prompt recognition of zealous services, and as such, I venture to say, produce a most salutary and wholesome effect on all deserving men throughout the whole Department.”

Col. Fuller, soon after his return from leave, once again wrote very strongly to Government, and succeeded in getting his protégé into the 2nd grade of Assistant Engineers, which, of course, meant an increase in salary.

At the latter end of 1872, Muncherji travelled in Northern India, visiting Delhi, Agra, Allahabad, Benares, and Calcutta. In 1891, he travelled (with three Parsi friends, all since deceased), to see Bijapur, Hyderabad (Deccan), Secunderabad, the Elora Caves, and Aurangabad. In 1891, he travelled in Southern India and visited Calicut, Bangalore, the Nilgiris, Trichinopoly, Madura, Pondicherry, Madras, and Belgaum.

In 1873, he delivered a lecture, in Gujarati, (illustrated by drawings etc.), on "Architecture," in connection with the Gnyan Prasarak Mandli.

On 16th March 1874, Muncherji proceeded to Europe, on six months' furlough-leave. While in London, he obtained an extension of five weeks. It was, at this period of time, an uncommon circumstance for natives of India to undertake to travel on the Continent and in England, although, strange to say, exchange then stood at only two shillings to the rupee. While on his way from India, he visited Venice, the Italian Lakes, Milan, Turin, Geneva, Lyons, etc., and afterward London, Manchester, Glasgow, Dublin, the Killarney Lakes, Belfast, the Highland Lakes, Dundee, and several other places.

The one special object, of his visit to Dundee, was to see the large and well-known bridge then under construction across the river Tay. I see it recorded in his diary-notes, of this period, that it had struck to him that the structure of this bridge was such as to make him feel that it would give way sooner or later, and before long. But he dared not mention his apprehensions in the face of eminent engineers who had designed and constructed this bridge. Before long, it did transpire that the bridge had collapsed.

During his return journey, for India, he took occasion to visit Paris, Brussels, Liege, Aix-la-

Chappelle, Verona, Florence, Rome, Naples, Cologne (for its renowned cathedral), Pisa (known for its "Leaning Tower"). On the 6th of July 1874, he applied for being admitted, and was proposed and subsequently appointed, (on the 1st of December 1874), as 'Associate-Member' of the Institute of Civil Engineers of England. The proposal was supported by Messrs. Walter McLeland, R. Atkins, J. McKinlay, Ardesir Kharshedji, J. Hart, J. Manning, H. Jones, Stevenson, and others. After the lapse of the requisite period, he was (in 1896) created a 'Member' thereof.

In 1875, (21st January), he was gazetted a 'Fellow' of the University of Bombay. On the enactment of the Indian Universities' Act, he was re-appointed 'Fellow,' (on 16th September 1904), by Government. From March 1898 to October 1906, he was a 'Syndic' in the Civil Engineering Faculty. In 1904, he was elected 'Dean' of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, which office he held from March 1904 to December 1904. Later on, he was re-elected, and held office from February 1909 to December 1911.

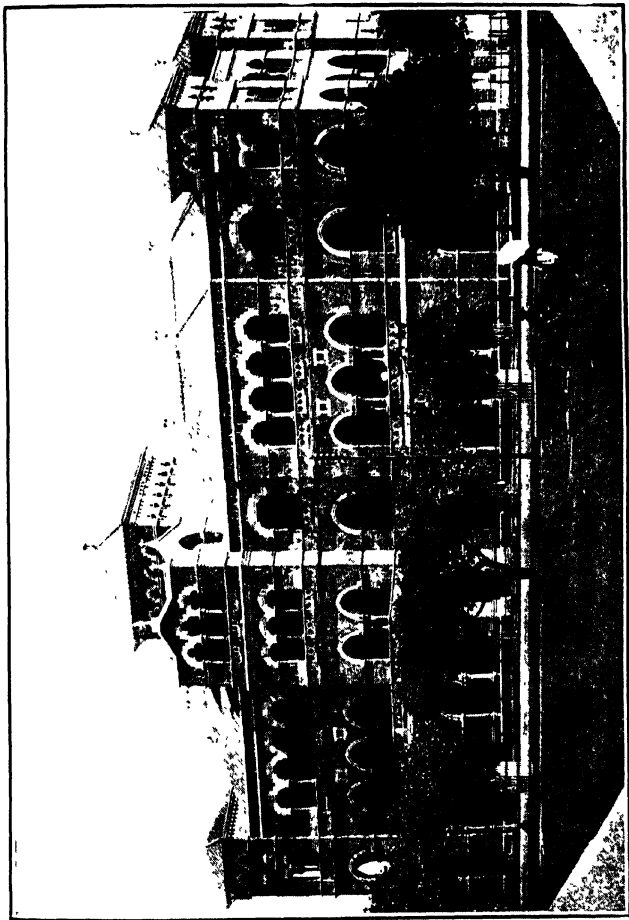
When, (in 1875), H. R. H. the Prince of Wales visited Bombay, a part of the arrangements, for the reception of His Royal Highness, and for the Government decorations of the City and the buildings, was entrusted to Muncherji, and both the Press and the Public expressed their high appreciation of the way in which he carried out the work. On this occasion, (on 11th November

1875), he officiated as Grand Warden to the Prince of Wales, (afterwards King Edward VII.), at the laying of the foundation-stone of the Prince's Docks, in Bombay, with Masonic honours.

On the occasion of the Delhi Durbar of 1877, (1st January), when the late Queen Victoria assumed the title of 'Kaesare Hind' and of Empress of India, Government were pleased to confer on him the distinction of 'Khan Bahadur' as a "mark of personal distinction in consideration of loyal conduct and services,"—as stated in the *sanad* conferring this honour. These distinctions were somewhat rare at this period.

In the following year, he was gazetted a 'Justice of the Peace' for the Town and Island of Bombay. (Bombay Government Gazette, 22nd July 1880).

On 27th April 1876, he was gazetted to act as Executive Engineer, Presidency. The services of Mr. Stevens, who was acting as Executive Engineer, Presidency, in place of Major Mant, having been lent to the G. I. P. Railway, Muncherji was again gazetted, (on 27th September 1877), to act in that appointment, although he was, at that time, only a 1st grade assistant engineer. This was an unique appointment,—the Presidency Executive Engineer's,—as he was the second native-Indian civil engineer and the *first* Parsi to be appointed to this post. By a later Resolution (dated 11th March 1878), he continued to act as Executive Engineer, Presidency, in place of Major Mant, deputed on special duty.



Built in 1874]

The GENERAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES : (FORT)

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જનરલ ટેલીગ્રાફ ઓફિસની ઇમારત.

[Times Press.

As has been stated elsewhere: "In 1878, when, on Lord Beaconsfield's word hung the question of peace or war with Russia, an expedition had to be despatched from Malta to Bombay. The matter was very urgent, it being necessary to send off troops within a week. The Marine Department, whose duty it was to fit up the ships, and do other necessary works, were not able to carry it out within the short time allotted for the purpose, and, part of the work was entrusted to Mr. Murzban [and part to Capt. Haydon], and Government were pleased, in a special Resolution to convey their thanks to [Captain Haydon and] Mr. Murzban for the assistance given in the preparations for the embarkation of the troops." The Resolution, (dated 4th May 1878), ran as follows:—"I am desired to request that you will have the cordial thanks of Government communicated to Capt. Haydon, R. E., and to Khan Bahadur Muncherji Cowasji Murzban, for the valuable aid given by them in the preparations for the recent embarkation of troops."

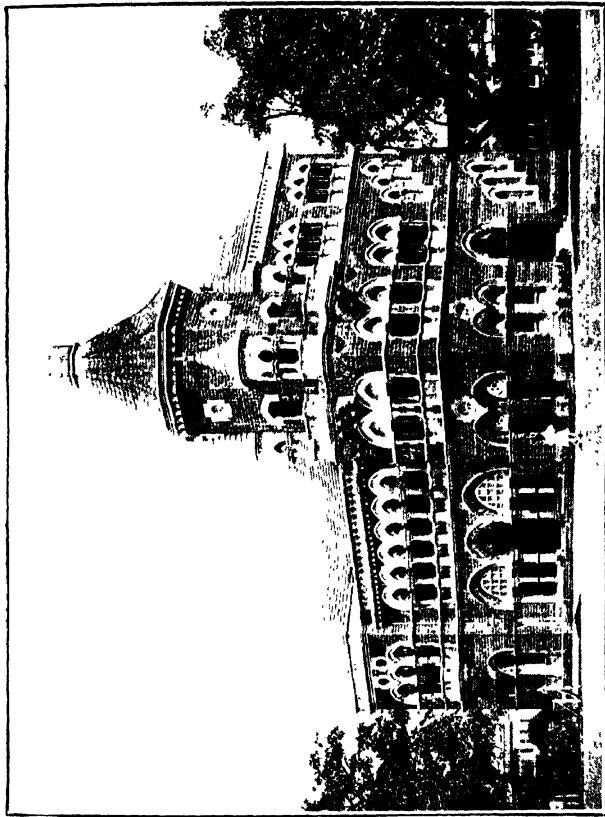
In connection with the expedition to Afghanistan, a telegram to General Merriman was received (on February 10, 1879) from His Excellency Sir Richard Temple,—then Governor of Bombay, and who was directing operations from his camp in Sindh,—to procure, by purchase, or manufacture, within a very short time, a very large number of country-carts for transport purposes. It was not possible to purchase so large a number in the market, and they had therefore to be specially made under

Muncherji's personal superintendence. For these services, His Excellency sent his "thanks" by a telegraphic message.

On the 22nd of April 1879, he was, by a Resolution, temporarily appointed Executive Engineer in the 4th grade, with retrospective effect, from 15th April, thereby superceding two officers senior in rank to him. On Aug. 5th, 1880, the Superintending Engineer, Northern Division, indited a letter to Government, recommending that Muncherji be confirmed in his acting appointment of Executive Engineer, Presidency; but the reply received was: "Government are fully aware of the excellent services rendered on various occasions by Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban, but until that officer attains the permanent rank of Executive Engineer, 4th Grade, they regret they cannot confirm him in his present appointment."

In 1880, he was elected a Member of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, by the rate-payers of Ward No. 1.

In 1881, (7th February), he applied to Government for purchase of a piece of land on the Esplanade, Fort,—that is the site of his place of residence, 'Gulestan,'—so as to be able to live in the vicinity of his office and other buildings then under construction. Government agreed to sell this site at the rate of Rs. 25 per square-yard, but, as one condition was proposed to be coupled, *viz.*, that, if at any future date, he or



Built in 1881]

The ALEXANDRA NATIVE GIRLS' ENGLISH INSTITUTION.

[Designed by M. C. Murzban.]

એલેક્ઝાન્ડ્રા નેટિવ ગર્લ્સ ઇંગ્લિશ ઇન્સ્ટિટ્યૂશન.

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Times Press.

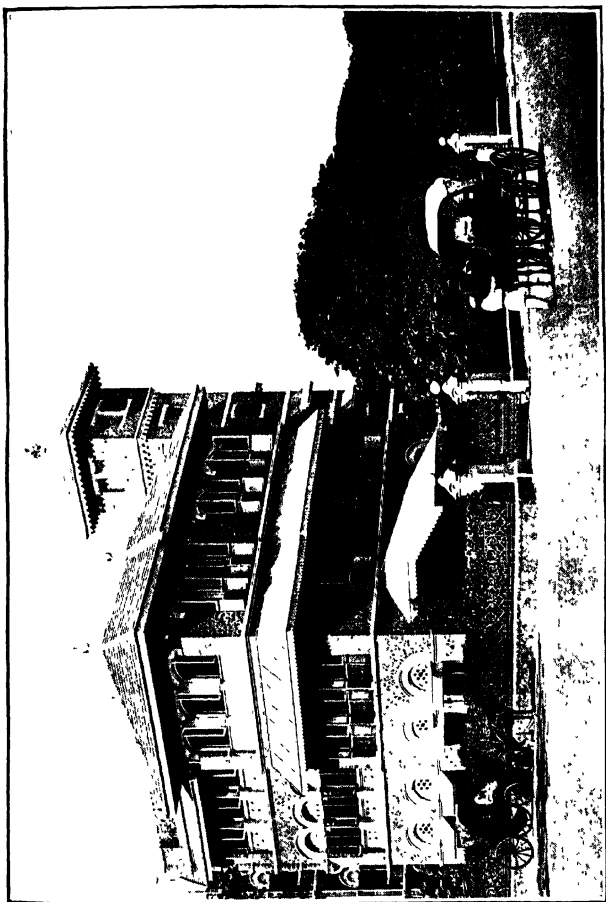
his heirs put the building, erected thereon, in the market for sale, Government should have the first refusal of purchase,—Muncherji refused to accept this condition. Subsequently, Government withdrew this condition, and sold 498½ square yards, at Rs. 20 per yard, the cost of which he duly paid. In addition to this area, 1,000 yards were granted, free of cost, for the purposes of maintaining a garden around the building. The house-warming of ‘Gulestan’ (so named after wife Gulbai) took place on the 16th of October 1884.

Even this incident, of the purchase of a site of land, was utilized as an occasion for a commendatory letter, (No. 1787 of 14th December 1883), by the Superintending Engineer, Colonel Maunsell, in the following strain :

“The Superintending Engineer, Northern Division, has the honour to suggest that the site applied for by Mr. Murzban be presented to him free or at a nominal cost, as a small but substantial recognition of Mr. Murzban’s services, which Government have been pleased on so many occasions to notice. Mr. Murzban has been connected many years with Bombay. Nearly all the Public Buildings on the Esplanade were constructed under his immediate supervision. He is himself the architect of some of the most pleasing structures, and is now carrying out his own designs for the Central Press and the Obstetric Hospital, the foundation of which was lately laid by His Royal

Highness the Duke of Connaught. Nearly all the arrangements for the reception of His Royal Highness fell on Mr. Murzban, and the satisfactory result was, it is believed, noticed by Government as well as the Public Press. Mr. Murzban's services have been frequently brought before Government, as worthy of some substantial mark of approval. It has been found impossible to provide this in the ordinary manner by promotion in the department, and, under the rules now impending, it is probable that he and Government may suffer by his services being curtailed. Government have now opportunity of rewarding Mr. Murzban, in some slight manner, for services they have so frequently recorded with satisfaction, and the Superintending Engineer, Northern Division, will be very much gratified if he finds he has been in any way the means of bringing reward to so deserving a servant."

An expeditionary force was despatched (in October 1882) to Egypt, and, in connection therewith, Muncherji had to get several of the transport-ships fitted up. This was coupled with other work in connection with the expedition. In submitting Muncherji's report, on the subject, to Government, General J. A. Fuller, R. E., C. I. E., Superintending Engineer, Northern Division, wrote: "On this occasion, as on many previous occasions, Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban has, by his energy, skill, and management, fully justified the opinion General Fuller held regarding him when he advised Government to appoint him Executive Engineer, Presidency,



Built in 1884]

[Page 58.

“GULESTAN,”
Esplanade, Fort
“ગુલેસ્તાન,”
ફોર્ટ, મેદાન.

[Times Press,

and he is also of opinion that he possesses administrative abilities of no ordinary kind, and would shine in any Civil département in which Government might be pleased to employ him." etc.

On this, the following Resolution was issued, by Government, (on the 13th of September 1882):

"That the thanks of Government be conveyed to the Executive Engineer, Presidency, Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban, Assoc. M. Inst. C. E., for the valuable assistance rendered in making horse-fittings and fitting out Transports of the Expedition."

The foreshore near Mahim, (about ten miles from Bombay), was (in 1883) found to be severely encroached upon, by the inroads of the sea, thereby thousands of acres of adjoining land were being washed away. Mr. Muncherji was deputed to report on the subject, and to suggest means for the protection of the fore-shore. The matter was of great importance, as it concerned the preservation of the western portion of the district of Mahim. After carefully going into the matter, he submitted an elaborate report, suggesting several schemes for protection against the washing-away. In its Resolution No. 167 of 8th March 1883, reviewing these schemes, Government says, Mr. Murzban "should be thanked for the careful manner in which he has dealt with this subject." However, the expenditure involved being too heavy for any of the schemes suggested being immediately carried

out in their entirety, the simple expedient of having a stone "pitching" was adopted, so as to prevent at least further washing away.

On 10th May 1883, he was gazetted to act for the Architectural Executive Engineer and Surveyor to Government, in addition to his current duties.

In the official year, 1882-83, the Superintending Engineer, Northern Division, Col. J. R. Maunsell, R. E., forwarded to Muncherji a copy of a concise report, which ran as follows :

"The Government are fully aware of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Muncherji C. Murzban. The works under his charge have, in the last few years, become very extensive and important. I have endeavoured to relieve him, in some way, of minor works, such as the charge of military buildings, and trust to be able hereafter to provide him with a competent assistant. Still his charge is one of the most important in the Northern Division, if not in Western India, while his present prospect and salary is so inadequate to his services that I venture to bring his case prominently before Government, as worthy of special consideration. In addition to his practical experience and valuable knowledge of the city of Bombay, his Architectural attainments are of no mean order."

This time, such an encomium was not without its good fruit : and, on the 12th of February 1884,

by a Government Resolution, Muncherji was confirmed in the 4th grade of Executive Engineers, and thereupon confirmed also in his appointment of Executive Engineer, Presidency. On 21st February 1885, he was gazetted as having been placed in the 3rd grade of Executive Engineers.

On completion of the Rajabai Tower and of the University building, the erection of the clock, and of the chimes in it, fell to the lot of Mr. Muncherji. The work was one of some magnitude,—there being 16 bells in the machinery, the largest one weighing three tons, and they had to be carried up to a height of 175 feet. In regard to this work, Government, in their Resolution No. 391 of 8th June 1883, made the following note: “The erection of the clock and chimes machinery, at this great height, without any damage to the building or machinery, is creditable to Khan Bahadur Muncherji C. Murzban.” etc.

He was nominated (in 1884), along with the Municipal Commissioner and Major Portman, a Government representative, of the 1887 International Exhibition Scheme, for the city of Bombay, for which purpose a large and influential Committee had been appointed. In order to enable him to inspect the Exhibition that was being then held, in Calcutta, he was deputed, by Government, at the instance of the Bombay Exhibition Committee, to proceed to Calcutta at the expense of Government. He finally submitted a report on

29th April 1884. This International Exhibition did not come off.

On the occasion of His Highness the Duke of Connaught's presence in Bombay, in connection with the Delhi Durbar, Muncherji was called upon to perform certain duties, the efficient discharge of which evoked the following letter on behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy :

Viceroy's Camp, Delhi.
17th November 1884.

My dear Sir,

I am desired by the Viceroy to inform you that in reading the report of the Hon. Secretaries of the Duke of Connaught's Festivities Fund, which has lately been sent to him, he has noticed with much satisfaction the mention made therein of the active part you took in carrying out the arrangements connected with the reception of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess.

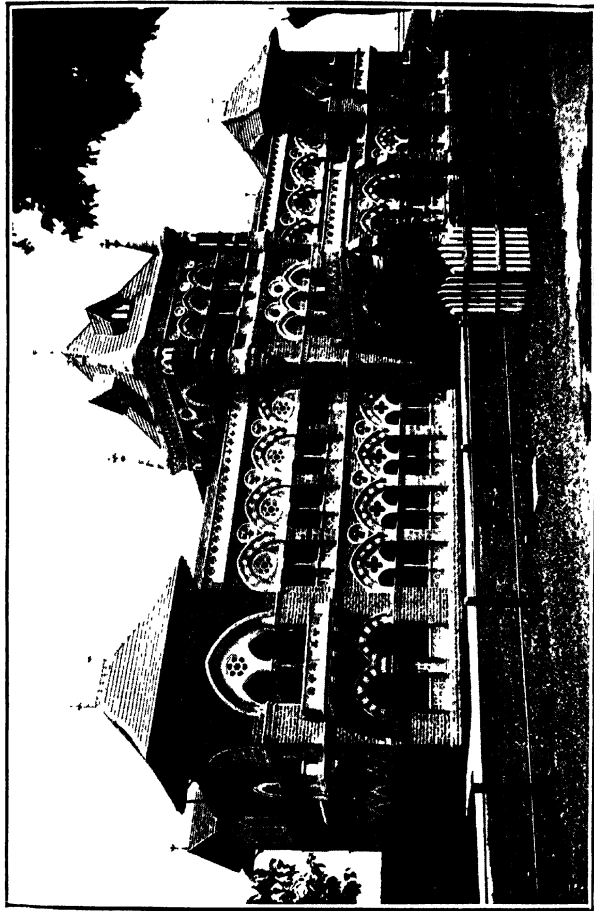
Copies of the Report have been sent for submission to Her Majesty, and His Excellency has no doubt that she will appreciate the efforts which were made to give Their Royal Highnesses a suitable welcome.

I am yours etc.,

(Sd.) H. W. Primrose,

Secretary to the Government of India.

On the occasion of Lord Ripon's departure from India, at the end of his most popular



Opened in 1886]

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PESTANJI HORMASJI CAMA HOSPITAL
for
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

[Designed by M. C. Murzban.]

સેક પેસ્તાનજી હોરમસજી કામાની (સ્ત્રીઓ અને બાળકો માટેની હોસ્પિટલની) ઇમારત.
[Times Press,

Viceroyalty, some six to seven hundred addresses of farewell were presented to His Excellency in the Town Hall of Bombay. To make arrangements for this purpose, Government appointed a Committee consisting of Mr. John Nugent, the then Secretary to the Government of Bombay, and Muncherji. The latter had, also, a large share in the decorations etc., of the city, in honour of the departing Viceroy. Muncherji was amongst those whom Lord Ripon invited to receive his heartfelt thanks for the grand and sympathetic 'good-bye', accorded to His Excellency.

On the installation, as District Grand Master, of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, in Government House, Malabar Hill, (Bombay), for the decorations etc., in connection with the above, His Highness took the opportunity to express his great appreciation in course of conversation with him.

A presentation, by Muncherji, of an album, containing photographic views of the city of Bombay, was graciously accepted, by His Royal Highness, in an autograph-letter. I feel tempted to transcribe it here :

Osborn, January 17, 1891.

Dear Mr. Murzban,

I have to thank very much for the very charming album of Indian workmanship which I have just received from you. I am very much pleased with it and with the photographs inside,

recalling events, connected with my stay in Bombay. I enclose a photograph of myself for you, as a small mark of my appreciation of your charming gift.

Hoping this letter will find you and all your family in very good health,

I believe me

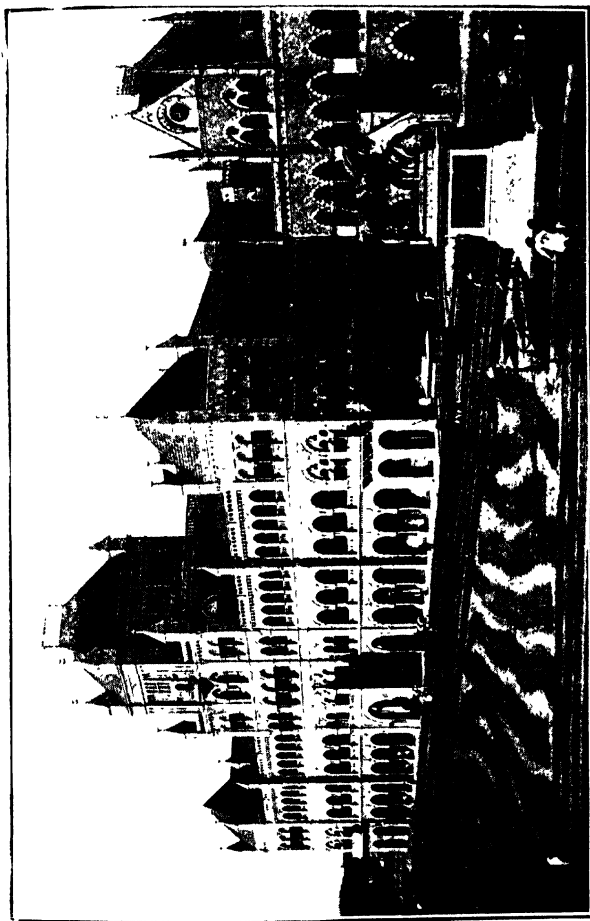
yours truly,

(Sd.) Arthur.

In 1885, Muncherji was placed on a Committee appointed (on the recommendation of the Municipal Commissioner, Bombay), for investigating into the matter of deaths due to gas-poisoning from the gutters on Clerk Road.

By a Government Resolution, (24th July 1885), Muncherji was appointed, for a period of six months, to act as Architectural Executive Engineer and Surveyor to Government, in addition to his own duties as Executive Engineer, Presidency. This was also one instance of an appointment,—however “acting” as it was,—conferred, upon an Indian official, for the *first* time. And it may be at once stated here that he was deputed to act, afterwards, in the same capacity more than once.

As, in accordance with the rules of the London Institute of Civil Engineers, before an ‘Associate-Member’ thereof could be placed as ‘Member’, a proposal therefor has to be sent in, and therefore Messrs. A. Forde, H. Palliser, H. Proctor-Sims,



Opened in 1859.]

SIR COWASJI JEHANGIR READYMONEY, KT., BUILDING

for

THE ELPHINSTONE COLLEGE, AND STATE RECORD OFFICE.

સર કાવસજી જેહાંગીર રેડીમની નાઇટ ની

એલફિનસ્ટન કૉલેજ અને સરકારી દફતરો માટેની ઇમારત.

[Page 64.

[Times Press.

J. Ferguson, J. Sleater, Naoroji N. Wadia, Jaggannath Sadashivji, C. Burke, F. Kirby, E. Carroll, W. Howard, S. Jackson, H. Sadashivji, J. Hewson, S. Cooke, and T. Anderson sent in their proposal, in accordance with which, on the 29th of January 1896, Muncherji was placed on the 'Members' list of the Institute.

The preparation of the plans, by Muncherji, for erecting another floor on the top of the Government Central Press and Secretariat Records building, was made the occasion of a Resolution by Government (on 20th May 1886). As is inscribed on its marble tablet: "This building, originally designed for the accommodation of the Government Central Press, and subsequently enlarged for the purpose of providing space for State Records, has, under the orders of Government, been appropriated to the purposes of the Elphinstone College and a State Record Office.—The College was formerly accommodated in a building at Chinchpogly, towards the cost of which the late Sir Cowasji Jehangir Readymoney, Kt., C. S. I., contributed Rupees two lakhs, and as a permanent record of that gentleman's munificence, Government are pleased to designate the College, The Cowasji Jehangir Readymony Building," etc. As has been done in the case of other Government buildings, this tablet does not give the names of the architects who designed this building.

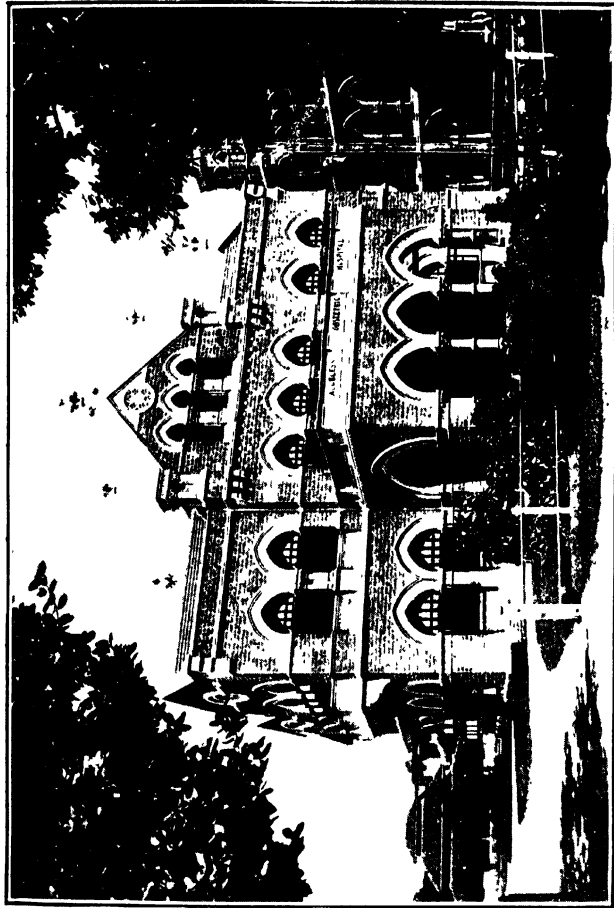
The aforesaid Resolution, of 20th May 1886, runs as follows:

"The design prepared by Mr. Adams is

approved, and Government are pleased to record the following opinion with reference to the revised design submitted by Mr. Murzban, from whose drawings the lower portion of the [Central Press] building upto top of first floor has already been constructed. The Executive Engineer, Presidency, to be informed that Government fully appreciate the merits of his design, and that, it was only after mature deliberation that they came to the conclusion that the general effect of design No. 4 by Mr. Adams, would be more satisfactory. Government are fully alive to the zeal shown by Mr. Murzban in meeting, by amended designs, the objections which had been made, and Government are convinced that Mr. Murzban will continue to perform his important duties in connection with this and other great works as heretofore."

On 17th August 1885, he was appointed an Examiner, by the Bombay University, in the subject of Engineering. He was similarly appointed, in later years, from 1886 to 1890.

A scheme, for the erection of a new building for the European General Hospital, being on the *tâpis*, Government appointed a Committee, on 1st May 1886, to make suggestions in connection therewith. The Committee consisted of the Surgeon-General (as President), the Sanitary Commissioner, the Principal of the Grant Medical College, the Surgeon of the Goçuldas Tejpal Hospital, the Honorary Secretary to the European General Hospital Endowment Fund, the third



Built in 1890]

BOMANJI EDALJI ALLBLESS OBSTETRIC HOSPITAL,
Esplanade.

[Designed by M. C. Murzban.]

બુવાવડ માટેની સેંઠ બમનજી એલ્લેસ ઓબ્સ્ટેટ્રિક હોસ્પિટલવાળી ઈમારત.

Times Press.

Physician to the Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital, and the Executive Engineer, Mr. Muncherji.

In the following year, (1887), he was appointed, by Government, on the Bombay Extension Committee, and was nominated a member of its sub-committee to consider various proposals in connection therewith and draft a report to Government. By a Resolution, (dated 19th December 1887), Government thanked the Committee for the work done, and sent Muncherji a copy of the same.

In August 1887, he wrote to Government that some Parsi citizens, with the suggestion of founding an Obstetric Hospital in Bombay, had offered to subscribe rupees sixty thousand therefor, but that they were unwilling to have their names disclosed at that stage. After acceptance of the suggestion, and on payment of a further sum of six thousand rupees, their names were to be disclosed. They were members of the well-known Allbless family of Bombay and brothers of the deceased Mr. Bomanji. The plans were prepared by Muncherji, and the "Bomanji Edaljee Allbless Obstetric Hospital" was built within the precincts of the Pestonji Hormusji Cama Hospital for Women and Children, at a cost of Rs. 59,640. On the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone by Lord Reay, Governor of Bombay, a nephew of Mr. Bomanji Edalji Allbless stated, before the gathering : "Negotiations were carried on with your Excellency's Government, through Khan Bahadur Muncherji

Cowasji Murzban, and eventually it was arranged that the fund available should be applied for the purpose of an obstetric hospital on these conditions: (1) That the hospital should be called the Bomanji Edalji Allbless Obstetric Hospital: (2) that, it should be opened to all classes and communities: (3) that, one of the wards should be set apart exclusively for Parsi females: and (4) that, Government should grant a site and maintain the hospital in perpetuity. In connection with the Obstetric Hospital, it was pointed out to us, that it would be necessary to provide doctors' quarters, to be also available for the Cama Hospital, and, accordingly, we have offered, together with the sons of the deceased Dadabhoy Edalji Allbless, a sum of Rs. 6,000 for that purpose, and also a sum of Rs. 4,000 for furniture, which, it was stated, would be required for the new hospital. The latter sum we beg respectfully to offer in the name of our late mother Motibai, wife of the late Edalji Framji Allbless, and we venture to hope that your Excellency's Government will be graciously pleased to accept it." This opportunity was availed of for a request to His Excellency the Governor to set apart a mortuary, or dead-house, for the bodies of deceased Parsi patients, and Rs. 2,000 were offered for the same. Lord Reay announced to the assemblage that this request would be complied with by Government.

Government gave sanction, (in its Notification dated 13th April 1887), to Muncherji's appointment,

by the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, to represent that body on the Board of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute. On 26th April 1900, the Board wrote and thanked Muncherji for the services rendered by him. On 26th September 1912, he resigned this office on account of ill-health.

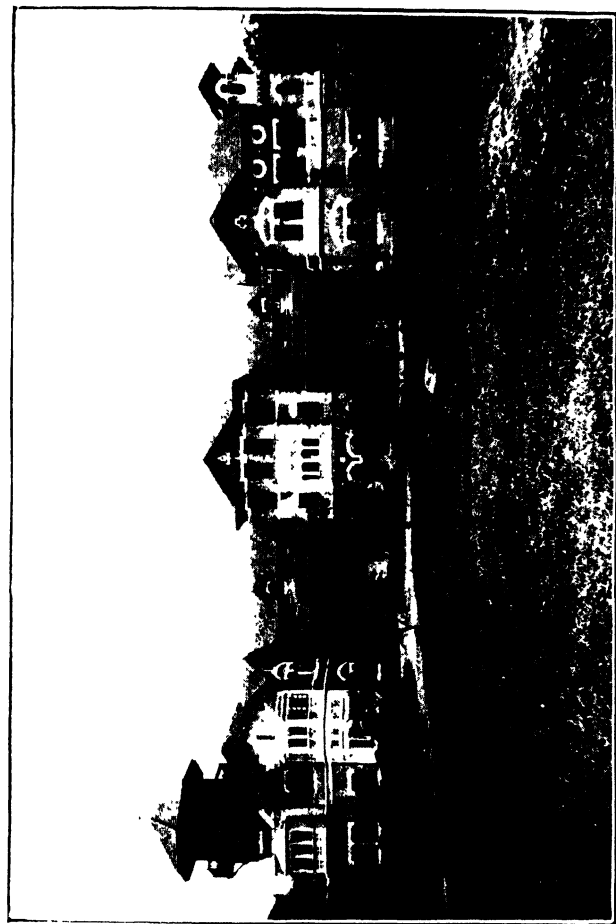
In accordance with a Government Resolution, Executive Engineers who had not attained the rank of Superintending Engineer at the age of 50, were liable to be compelled to retire at the option of Government. In submitting the proposal that this rule should not be made applicable to Muncherji, the late Mr. T. D. Little, Chief Engineer to the Government of Bombay, wrote (on 27th December 1887) as follows: "I must say that I consider Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban is fully capable of carrying on his duties in the Public Works Department, and the numerous acknowledgments he has received for good work are sufficient to demonstrate the value and efficiency of the service he has rendered in the past, and is still able and willing to render in the future." In submitting this case to the Government of India, the Secretary to the Bombay Government stated: "I am to convey the recommendation of the Government of Bombay that the case be treated under the rules which apply to uncovenanted servants generally, and that the special rules which make retirement compulsory at 55, and optional at the discretion of Government, be held not applicable in the case of Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban."

This correspondence resulted in a Government of India Resolution, dated the 23rd of January 1888, wherein it was stated that, on the question arising at its proper time, it would be duly considered.

Eventually, when he attained the age of 50, his services were continued ; but, before he attained his 55th year of age, he himself retired, on pension, from Government service, and accepted the appointment of Executive Engineer to the Bombay Municipality, wherein he served for eleven years.

In 1886, Her Majesty, Queen Victoria's Secretary of State accepted a suggestion made by the Government of India that the question of the admission of Natives of India to the Covenanted Civil Service should be re-opened and carefully considered, and requested that a Commission should be appointed, in India, for that purpose. He also expressed a desire that the enquiry, to be made by the Commission, should extend not only to the admission of Natives to that Service, but also to their employment in all branches of the public service connected with the civil administration of the country. In connection with this Commission witnesses were examined, in 1886-88, in all parts of India, and Muncherji's evidence, (in January 1887), has been recorded in the following words, in the " Appendices to the Report of the Public Service Commission : 1886-87 ":

" Khan Bahadur Muncherji Kavasji Murzban, *Executive Engineer*,—considers that Natives are quite



Built in 1866]

THE INDO-BRITISH INSTITUTION.

[Designed by M. C. Murzban.]

ઇન્ડો-બ્રિટિશ ઇન્સ્ટિટ્યુશનની ઇમારત.

[Page 70

[Times Press,

fit for service in the Engineering grade, but for some time there should be in that grade a fair proportion of Royal Engineers and British Civil Engineers. The former by their high education and military position give prestige to the Department, and the latter bring to it fresh knowledge acquired by visits to Europe. Such Engineers should be drawn from the profession at large and not taken fresh from College. Assistant Engineers should be posted to offices of Executive Engineers in charge of large works. Native Engineers are better than Europeans for checking scamping of work and fraud on the part of contractors. In the efficiency of their works there is not much difference. The European Engineer's education is superior. The present system of appointing Natives is not satisfactory. Students at the College give more attention to subjects likely to tell well in the final examination; hence they know more of Mathematics, for instance, than of Engineering. Three or four of the most successful men of each year should be employed as upper subordinates and promoted thence to the Engineer grade. The upper subordinates should be all Natives, except military subordinates for military works. At present Europeans are admitted to the upper subordinate rank as first grade Overseers on Rs. 100, and Natives to the third grade on Rs. 60. Hence an undue proportion of higher grade appointments is held by the former. On the other hand, only one European, to the knowledge of witness, has been promoted from upper subordinate to Engineer,

while he knows of several Natives who have been so promoted. The witness himself is one."

The Agent to the B. B. & C. I. Railway having made certain suggestions in connection with that Railway, Government, on the 6th of July 1888, appointed a Committee, on which Muncherji was placed. On 13th March, of the following year, the Committee completed its work, and Government, by a subsequent Resolution, recorded its thanks for the work done.

The Royal Institute of British Architects, of England, conferred on Muncherji, (in June 1889), the honour of its Fellowship. The *Times of India* (16th July 1889), in announcing this election, notes: "This gentleman, who has earned quite an enviable reputation in Bombay, having been associated, in some capacity or other, with nearly every work of magnitude during the past ten years or so, has recently had the very high honour conferred upon him of election to the class of Fellows of the Royal Institute of British Architects,—a distinction which, in these days of qualifying examinations, is given only to men of some distinction."

A Fancy Fair was held (in 1889), for the benefit of the Alexandra Native Girls' English Institution. The plans and the organization were entrusted to Muncherji, for which he received the thanks, in writing, of the members of the Committee of that Institution.

On the occasion of the visit, (in 1890), of H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor, the services of Muncherji were enlisted. The *Advocate of India*, (April 2, 1890), referring to his work, observes: "Among the officials and private gentlemen of this city who have laboured to give weight and grandeur to the public reception lately accorded to H. R. H. Prince Albert Victor, the name of Khan Bahadur Muncherji Murban, Executive Engineer at the Presidency, must be mentioned. He is to the fore on all such occasions. No Viceroy can arrive on these shores, or depart from them, without his help; without him, all the fairs, all the foundation-stone ceremonies, all the tamashas, of the past decade, would have been robbed of their most artistic effects. He will go down to posterity—we hope—as the author of the gorgeous pavilion on the Apollo Bunder, under which several Royal personages, Viceroys, and Governors have either said farewell to India or received the first words of welcome."

The Municipal Corporation of the City of Bombay, of which he had been an elected member since 1880, unanimously appointed him, (in April 1890), their President, (as per its Secretary's letter dated 14th April 1890). During the tenure of this office, he had the honour of presenting the Municipal address to His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lord Reay, Governor of Bombay, on the occasion of his departure from India. On completion of the period of Muncherji's office as its President, the Corporation passed the following Resolution:

“The best thanks of the Corporation be given to the retiring President, for the assiduity and ability with which he has performed the duties of the Chair, during the past year.”

On 17th Dec. 1890, he was promoted permanently to the 2nd Grade of Executive Engineers.

The Government's appreciation of his life-long services accentuated in the bestowal of the distinction of being a “Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire,” on the occasion of Her late Majesty Queen-Empress Victoria's birthday in 1899. To Muncherji, Lord Harris intimated this honour by a telegraphic message. The Order of ‘C. I. E.’, over the signature of the Queen-Empress, was sent to him on the 11th of September 1891. This occasion was availed of by the *The Building News* (of London) to publish, (on 6th March 1891), his portrait and a short sketch of his life.

Lady Harris, having devised a series of extensive Fancy Fêtes at the Government House, Malabar Hill, Muncherji contributed his services to the same. Her Excellency, on the 25th of March 1892, wrote her thanks to him, accompanied by a photograph of his Excellency the Governor, Lord Harris. In taking a long review of these fêtes, the *Times of India*, (3rd March 1892), wrote that, without Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban, “no Fancy Fair in Bombay could be complete.” These fêtes were held for the purpose of augmenting the funds of numerous deserving institutions.

By a Government Resolution, (on 25th November 1891), he was appointed to act, for three months, as Architectural Executive Engineer and Surveyor to Government, in addition to his own duties as Executive Engineer, Presidency, *vice* Mr. Adams, on leave.

In 1892: he was made a Member of the Society of Arts of London: and two silver-cups were presented to him, on Jamshedi Naoroz day, for services rendered in the designing and construction of two buildings for use of Parsis on occasions of marriage and for holding *gahambar* feasts. These buildings are located in the compound of the Dadiseth's Atashbeheram.

The Municipal Corporation of Bombay appointed Muncherji their Executive Engineer, (on the 6th of December 1892), on a salary of Rs. 1,200 per month, for the period of five years. This salary was subsequently raised to Rs. 1,500. The appointment was duly confirmed by Government, as required by law. This appointment was not without the usual concomitant rivalry from other quarters. Mr. Tomlinson, who was then Deputy Engineer of the Bombay Municipal Water Works, was also a candidate for the same. The European newspapers entered into a good deal of discussion. The *Advocate of India*, a daily English newspaper of Bombay, wrote as follows in its editorial columns, (7th October 1891): “ . . . Mr. Murzban is undoubtedly, far and away, the very best available officer for the Engineer's Department. The whole

city of Bombay will hail his nomination with delight and satisfaction. He possesses the confidence of all his European superiors, and wherever his services have been used, whether amongst Europeans with European superiors, official or non-official, or amongst natives of all classes, his honesty, independence, professional ability, and urbanity have been freely acknowledged, and he stands to-day high in the estimation of the Government he has faithfully served for a long series of years. The Corporation and the city are to be congratulated on the opportunity which now presents itself of securing the services of Mr. Murzban as Municipal Executive Engineer of this city."

It was a matter for satisfaction that the Indian Press was unanimously in Muncherji's favour. Two of the local English newspapers wrote adversely about him, for weeks together; but, despite all, when a poll was taken, in the Municipal Corporation meeting, forty members voted for Muncherji and fifteen for Mr. Tomlinson.

Mr. (afterwards Sir) Pherozshah M. Mehta proposed Muncherji's appointment, and the proposal was seconded by Dr. Thomas Blaney. In the course of a long speech, in support of his proposition, he observed that his "proposal, to appoint Muncherji had, in view, the reform of the Executive Engineer's Department, one of the most important department of the Municipality;" that "the head of so important a department should be a man

of known and proved administrative ability, and should possess, in a remarkable degree, what Lord Reay had very happily termed, an "economic conscience." These qualifications he "claimed for Mr. Murzban." That: "Mr. Murzban was held in very high esteem by Government whom he had served long and well. He worked his way up from the very bottom, going through all sorts of Departments, and doing all sorts of work; making drains, building bridges; in fact, doing every species of engineering work. They had had some experience of the work he had done in the matter of public exhibitions, and they all knew that his expenses were always well within the estimates. He had held the position of Executive Engineer for the Presidency with credit to himself and profit to Government." Mr. Mehta explained that: "the idea, of selecting Mr. Murzban for this important appointment, did not originate with himself, but with a gentleman, who, though he did not take a very prominent part in public affairs, yet evinced the keenest interest in everything affecting the welfare of the City." He "referred to Mr. Jamshedji N. Tata, who, on one occasion, in discussing the reform in the Municipal Engineering Department, said that things would never come right until they had a man like Mr. Murzban at the head of affairs."

Referring to the result of the poll taken, one of the daily English newspapers of Bombay, in its editorial, (of December 6, 1892), made this note:

“Practically, Mr. Murzban had the running all his own way, and it cannot but be regarded as complimentary to Government that one of their best Executive Officers should be so highly esteemed, by the Bombay Municipal Corporation, as to be selected, by a very large majority of the Corporation, for one of the most responsible posts in the Municipality.” Muncherji was the *first* Parsi, (and even the first native-Indian, as a Parsi is now considered to be), to receive this appointment.

The *Indian Spectator*, (of Mr. Beheramji M. Malabari), in an editorial, (December 11, 1892), wrote: “The election of Mr. M. C. Murzban, as head of the Engineering Department of the Municipality of Bombay, is something of an event in the history of local Self-Government, and, as such, we see it recognised over the Presidency. But it is not so much on sentimental grounds that we welcome the choice of the Corporation. It can be justified on grounds of real practical importance . . . Mr. Murzban has this advantage, both over his predecessor and his rival . . . To his natural advantage, Mr. Murzban adds practical experience, ranging over, perhaps, a quarter of a century, and a reputation for capacity and independence such as is enjoyed by few servants of the State, or representatives of the rate-paying public. The Municipal Corporation badly needed a veteran like this, if only to clean an Augean stable. With such an officer available, one, who

had worked for and with the public, who had already presided over its deliberations [as President], the civic Parliament would have proved itself both an ingrate and an imbecile, if it failed to seize the opportunity. As to Mr. Murzban, we doubt, from what very little we know of him, if he looks upon his appointment as a gain all round. With his reputation, he might have found less anxious, and probably more remunerative, work elsewhere . . . For this salary [Rs. 1,200] we think Mr. Murzban has been got cheap; and we are also inclined to think that he will save the Municipality many times that sum in money, and the public many more times its value in health and comfort."

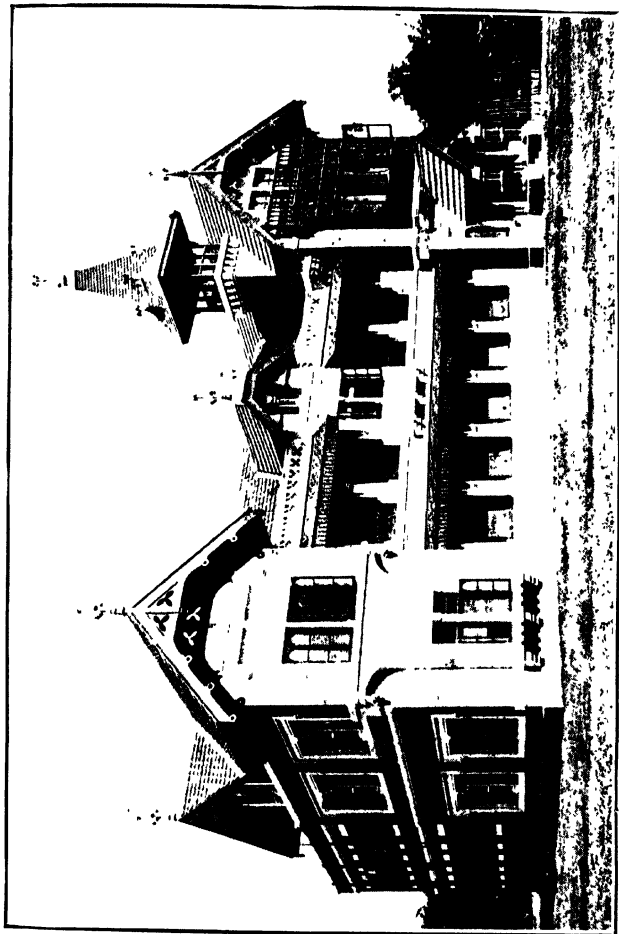
After a long period of 36 years, Muncherji tendered his resignation, from the service of Government, on the 24th of January 1893. He was, at this time, drawing Rs. 945 a month. On this occasion, the Chief Engineer, Mr. T. D. Little wrote to him: "I see that you have made over charge, and that our official connection has ended. I am sorry we are no longer to work together in the Public Works Department, and I thank you for all the aid you have so freely rendered me during the time our duties have brought us together. I have often made use of your long experience in regard to Bombay and other matters, and I am indebted to you for much useful aid."

Government were pleased to acknowledge his services in their Resolution (No. 22E-118,

dated 21st January 1893), in the following terms :
 “ His Excellency the Governor-in-Council regrets that Mr. Murzban’s long and meritorious service under Government is brought to a conclusion.”

With reference to this Resolution, the *Indian Engineering*, (on 28th January 1893), said : “ This is as it should be. The public works executed by Mr. Murzban, in the city of Bombay alone, will be veritable footprints in the sands of time, and a lasting memorial to the genius of the best—self-made—Parsee Civil Engineer that India has produced.” The *Indian Spectator*, (February 5, 1893), in quoting this Resolution, observed : “ Mr. Murzban fully deserves this meed of praise. But what is a loss to Government is a gain to the Bombay Municipality. Mr. Murzban has undertaken heavy responsibility in accepting the Executive Engineer’s office [in the Bombay Municipality]. He is the first native appointed to this post.”

During the tenure of office as Executive Engineer, Presidency, he had, under him at one time or another, as his assistants, Messrs. Fardunji Cooverji Taraporevala, C. I. E., (who afterwards attained the rank of Superintending Engineer), Ebhrahim Ahmedi, Ali Akbar (afterwards Superintending Engineer), Lalit Mohan Bose, A. M. Inst. C. E., and Manekji Hormusji Vajifdar. Many officers, even senior to Muncherji, applied, from time to time, to be appointed Executive Engineer, Presidency, but were refused by Government.



Built in 1891.

Miss AVABAI MEHERWANJI BHAUNAGREE HOME FOR NURSES :

(Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Baronet Hospital, Byculla.)

[Designed by M. C. Murzban.]

મિસ આવાબાઈ મેહેરવાનજી ભાવનગરીને નામની


સર જમશેદજી જજીભાઈ બેરોન્ટેની હોસ્પિટલ વગેરેની નસીં માટેની ઇમારત. (ભાથબલા.)

[Times Press

Consequent upon his acceptance of the appointment, as Executive Engineer of the Bombay Municipality, he had to resign as a member of the Municipal Corporation, on which Board he had sat, from 1881 to 1886, as a representative of the tax-payers, from 1886 to 1893, and, (after his retirement from Municipal service), from 1904 to 1907, as that of the Justices of the Peace.

The severance of his connection, with the Bombay Government P. W. D., was noticed by *The Daily Graphic*, of London, (20th May 1893) in giving the outlines of his career, at the same time publishing a photograph of his.

Before entering upon the second period of his professional career, a list of some of the most important public buildings, either designed by him or erected under his immediate superintendence, has been reproduced on the next and subsequent pages. (Those designed by him have been marked with an asterisk.*) I have also reproduced the photographs of most the buildings *designed* by him, and inserted them in the order of sequence of the year in which each one was either fully constructed or declared open for use. I have, however, omitted some very few buildings for which photographs have not been available.



**LIST OF BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED
BY M. C. MURZBAN,
UNDER THE CONTROL OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.**

- 1.—The Building for the General Post Office:
(now used as an adjunct of the General Tele-
graph Offices). (Fort.) Completed: 1st De-
cember 1872. Cost: Rs. 5,94,200.
- 2.—The Goculdas Tejpal Native General Hospital.
(Esplanade.) Completed: 8th April 1874.
Cost: Rs. 3,67,465.
- *3.—Building for the Bombay Division of Tele-
graphs, and British Indian Sub-Marine Tele-
graphs. (Fort.) Completed: 20th April 1874.
Cost: Rs. 2,44,697.
- *4.—Building for additional Wing of the above.
Completed: 30th September 1888. Cost: Rs.
1,53,172.
- 5.—Building for the Government Telegraph Depart-
ment. (Fort.) Now used as residential-
quarters for Government signallers other than
Indian. Completed: 31st January 1878. Cost:
Rs. 1,30,355.
- 6.—Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy School of Arts. Com-
pleted: 28th February 1878. Cost: Rs.
1,91,490.

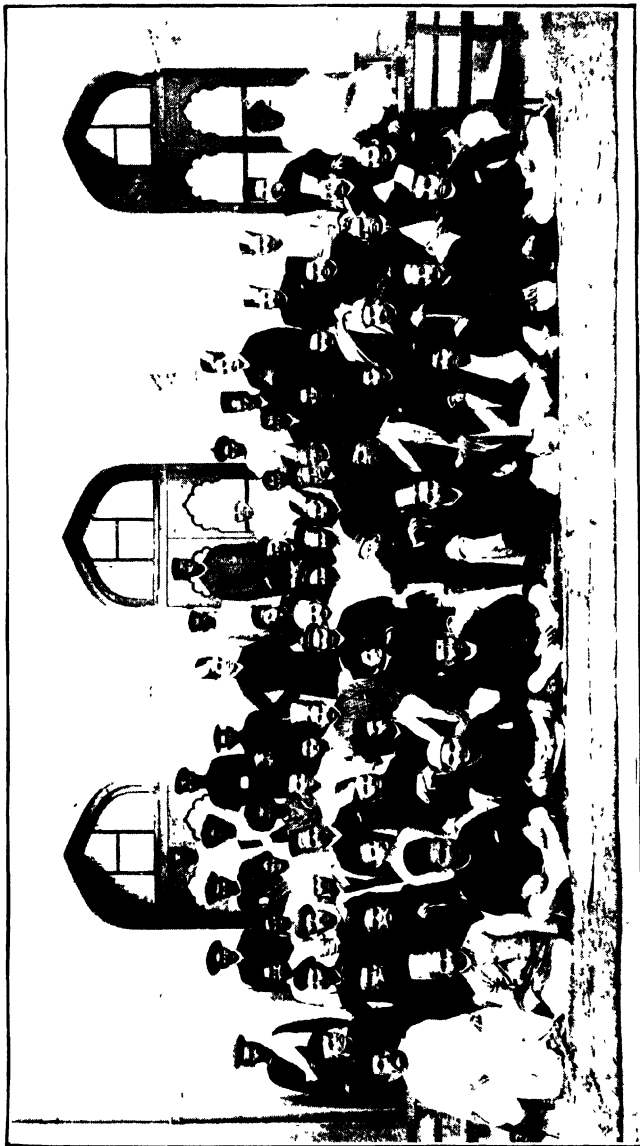


Photo on 11th Feb. 1893.]

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PRESIDENCY'S OFFICE, P.W.D.

મુખ્ય ઇલાકા સરકારી એન્જીન્યુટિવ એનજીનીયરની ખાતાની ઓફિસ.

- 7.—The Scottish Orphanage. (Mahim.) Completed: 28th February 1878. Cost: Rs. 84,016.
- *8.—The Alexandra Native Girls' English Institution. Completed: 1st September 1881. Cost: Rs. 56,864.
- 9.—The John Cannon (Scottish) High School. (Fort.) Completed: 1st November 1881. Estimated Cost Rs. 87,555. (The *actual* cost has not been given on the marble-tablet placed in this building.) Supervised by Muncherji from August 1880 till completion.
- *10.—PestANJI Hormasji Cama Hospital for Women and Children. (Esplanade.) Opened: 30th July 1886. Cost: Rs. 1,71,722.
- *11.—The Indo-British Institution. (Fort.) Completed: 31st December 1886. Cost: Rs. 1,08,356.
- 12.—Building for the Presidency Magistrates' Courts. (Esplanade.) Completed: 31st December 1886. Cost: Rs. 3,73,694.
- *13.—Sir Cowasji Jehangir Readymoney, Kt., Building for the Elphinstone College and State Record Office. (Fort.) Opened: 4th February 1889. Cost: Rs. 7,41,497.
- 14.—Rev. John Wilson, D. D., F. R. S., College. (Chowpatty Sea Face). Completed: 28th February 1889. Cost: Rs. 1,45,195.
- *15.—Bomonjee Eduljee Allbless Obstetric Hospital.

- (Esplanade.) Opened: 8th April 1890. Cost: Rs. 59,640.
- *16.—The Cowasji Dhanjibhoy Powvalla Building for the Fort Gratuitous Dispensary. (Fort.) Completed: 9th April 1890. Cost: not marked on the marble-tablet put up in the building.
- 17.—Framji Dinshaw Petit Laboratory for Scientific Medical Research. (Byculla.) Opened: 17th February 1891. Cost: Rs. 60,242.
- *18.—Miss Avabai Mehervanji Bhownaggree Home for Nurses. (Byculla.) Opened: 17th February 1891. Cost: Rs. 30,605.
- 19.—Bai Motlibai Manekji Naoroji Wadia Obstetric Hospital. (Byculla.) Opened: 15th March 1892. Cost: Rs. 1,52,061.
- 20.—Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit Hospital for Women and Children. (Byculla.) Opened: 15th March 1892. Cost: Rs. 1,19,351.
- 21.—Dwarkanadas Lalloobhai Dispensary for Women and Children. (Byculla.) Opened: 15th March 1892. Cost: Rs. 9,591.
- 22.—Madras-i-Anjuman-i-Islam of Bombay. (Esplanade.) Opened: 27th February 1893. Cost: Rs. 1,40,000.
- 23.—Building for the Women's Ward of St. George's European General Hospital. (Particulars not available.)

- 24.—Building for the Cathedral Boys' High School (Fort.) (Particulars not available.) (Note: This building was subsequently sold to the Oriental Life Assurance Company, Limited, and a new building was erected, for the school, opposite the Parsi Lying-in-Hospital.)
- 25.—The Holy Trinity Church. (Near the Indo-British Institution: Fort.) (Particulars not available.)
- 26.—St. Mary's Church. (Parel.) (Particulars not available.)
- 27.—All Saints' Church. (Malabar Hill.) (Particulars not available.)

**LIST OF SOME OF THE BUILDINGS
DESIGNED BY M. C. MURZBAN,
AND CONSTRUCTED UNDER
HIS SUPERINTENDENCE, IN HIS
NON-OFFICIAL CAPACITY.**

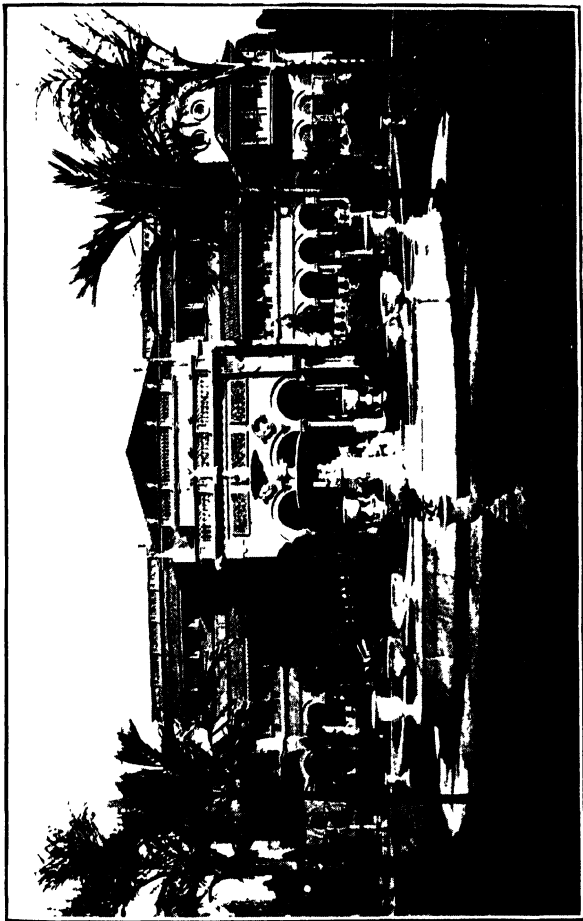
- *28.—'Chateau Petit.' (Warden Road.)
- *29.—The Roman Catholic Church. (Dabul: Girgaon Road.)
- *30.—The Parsi Lying-in-Hospital. (Esplanade.)
Opened: 11th January 1895. Cost: Rs. 1,00,541.
- *31.—The Byramjee Jeejeebhoy, C.S.I., Parsi Charitable Institution. (Queen's Road.) Built: 9th March 1909. Cost: Rs. 4,12,969.
-

In the above list, a building for the Wilson's College, at Chowpatty, has been mentioned. *En passant*, I may mention that the arrangement of its foundations is somewhat unique, considering the extent of the same. On the site where this building has been erected, the waters of the adjacent sea,—even within my own recollection,—used to wash the beach, and so, the soil being muddy, huge timbers have been laid underground, and, over them, the foundations, of stone-masonry, have been laid in accordance with Muncherji's own views in the matter.

As for the work done by Muncherji, outside the sphere of his official duties, while under the Bombay Government and in the Municipality, the following may be noticed in special:

Besides the *Chateau Petit* (on Warden Road), originally built for Rustomji Sorabji Kharas,—a merchant from Aden,—and afterwards purchased by Mr. Bomanji Dinshaw Petit, one other building, designed by Muncherji, has been that for the Byramji Jeejeebhoy Benevolent Institution, situated opposite the Charni Road Railway Station, on the Queen's Road.

The first *dokhma*, in Lonavla, was built through his exertions. The building for the main hall of the Allbless Bag, (founded for marriages and other occasions), was designed and built under his supervision. And so were the two upper storied buildings within the precincts of Dadiseth's Atashbeheram, Bombay.



“CHATEAU PETIT,”

Warden Road.

Originally designed by M. C. Murzban and subsequently extended by its present owner.]

“શાહે ખીદર,”

વૉરડન રોડ.

When Muncherji was Executive Engineer of the Bombay Municipality, he prepared the designs and estimates for a Public Hall, which was to be endowed, at a cost of Rs. 5,00,000, by Bai Dinbai Petit, to perpetuate the memory of Nasarvanji Manekji Petit. It was hoped that this Hall would be located next to the Municipal Office building. But, unfortunately for the city, the negotiations,—after reaching almost their culminating point,—fell through, for certain reasons, and the citizens of Bombay have been, once more, without a commodious Hall to hold their public and other meetings in. The *Indian Engineering* published the plans, as prepared by Muncherji; and a pretty model of the building was executed for inspection of the intending donoress of the building. I have had its design reproduced in this book.

Besides the above-mentioned buildings, almost all the new roads on the Esplanade (in the locality called the Fort), the eastern boulevard (now known as Frere Road), and a large number of other public works have been executed under Muncherji's superintendence. The total cost of the Government buildings, listed above, has amounted to about one crore of rupees.

On 8th May 1893, he was elected a 'Delegate' of the Bombay Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court, which office he resigned, after many years, on account of ill-health.

On 25th May 1893, he was appointed a

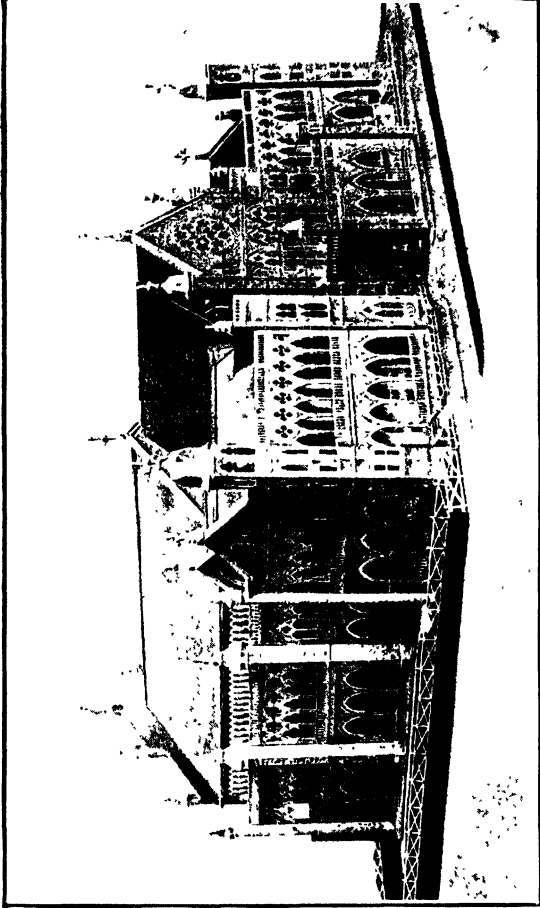
trustee of the Byramji Jeejeebhoy Parsi Benevolent Institution, and which office he held for twenty years. Similarly, he was a trustee, (up to 1914), of the Nasarvanji Manekji Petit Charity Funds, which office also he resigned on account of ill-health, as he had to do, in the same year, in the case of his office as President of the Sassoon Mechanics' Institute.

He has been a trustee, (since 18th September 1893), of the Kadini Gahambâr Funds, and of the Fund for the salary of the Dastur for the Kadini Parsis of Bombay, since 5th January 1864.

He was a member of the Committee of the Jamsetji Nasarvanji Petit Parsi Orphanage for Boys, which office he resigned in 1914, on account of ill-health. He has been trustee of several other Parsi Charitable Funds. In 1901, he was appointed a member of the Committee to establish the Nasarvanji Jehangir Wadia Charitable Dispensary, in Andheri, founded by Mr. Wadia at a cost of Rs. 50,000.

When the Sassoon Reformatory Institute was removed, (in 1914), to Matunga, from Bombay, he resigned as a member of its Committee.

On the 25th of January 1898, the Municipal Corporation of Bombay unanimously re-appointed him as their Executive Engineer, for a further and second period of five years, on a salary of Rs. 1,500 per month. This re-appointment was confirmed by Government.



[Page ૯૪

The proposed NESSERVANJI MANEKJI PETIT PUBLIC HALL.

[As designed by M. C. Murzban.]

મરહુમ શેઠ નસરવાનજી માણેકજી પીટીટને નામે બાંધવા ધારેલી, પ્રજ્ઞતા
વપરાસ માટેની, ઇમારતનો નક્ષો.

[Times Press.

On the 26th of April 1900, the Board of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute,—to which he had been appointed as its representative by the Municipal Corporation,—passed a vote of thanks for his services in connection therewith. He resigned the Board of that Institute on 26th September 1912.

Under the Bombay Improvement Trust Act, the Municipal Corporation appointed him an Assessor on the Tribunal of Appeal, on the 20th of August 1900. He held that office for one year.

On the occasion of the Delhi Durbar, held for the Coronation of King Edward VII and of the Queen-Empress, Muncherji was commanded to be present thereat, but as his services were in request in connection with the celebration of the festivities in Bombay, he was accorded permission, by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, to be absent from the Durbar, with an intimation, through his Secretary, that His Excellency thanked him for undertaking to carry out the celebrations, by remaining behind in Bombay.

The Municipal Corporation of Bombay, having expressed its desire that Muncherji should continue to hold office as Executive Engineer, on the termination of the second period of that office, until he was relieved by another officer, he intimated in reply, that, as stated in his letter of 5th July 1902, he could not accede to the wishes of the Corporation. All the same, he continued for a

year longer, as no officer, to take his place, could be found in India, and the Corporation had to look for one in England.

Thus, after holding this appointment for eleven years, he handed over charge, (on the 8th of December 1903), to Mr. Hall, who was imported from England. Mr. Hall, in his turn, held this appointment for only about five years, and then vacated the appointment and commenced practice in Bombay. This latter incident reminds one of what the *Indian Spectator* had observed, (*vide* p. 79, *ante*).

On Muncherji's retirement, from the Municipal Department, Mr. W. L. Harvey, I. C. S., the then Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, wrote to him as follows:

"I take this opportunity of expressing my warm appreciation of the admirable services you have rendered to the Municipality during nearly eleven years, and of the loyal assistance you have always so willingly rendered me, while we have been working together, and I regret that your health did not admit of your taking office for a further term. You will carry with you, on your retirement, the goodwill of all who have had the pleasure of serving with you, and I trust that the City will, for years to come, have the benefit of your great ability, experience, and zeal in public affairs."

On his retirement from office, his subordinates

gave him an entertainment, in which nearly 300 were present. Also, an evening party was held in which his Hindu and other subordinates were present. The Corporation gave him a dinner, at the Ripon Club, under the chairmanship of its President. Sir Ferozshaw M. Mehta made an eloquent speech in praise of the guest of the evening.

An Exhibition, on a very extensive scale, was held in Bombay, (10th December 1904), under the auspices of the Indian National Congress. Muncherji prepared the plans for the same; and the sole superintendence, of the Exhibition, was in his hands. It was unanimously pronounced a great success.

He was appointed, by Government, the 'Sheriff,' of Bombay, for the year 1906. This event was thus foreshadowed,—by way of a wish being father to a rumour,—in one of the three local daily English newspapers, a considerably long while before the appointment: "It is rumoured that Mr. Murzban is to be the next Mayor of the City. No man has better deserved the honour. That is a reward from the City. The Government should not be behind hand." In virtue of his office, as Sheriff, he was called upon, on behalf of the citizens of Bombay, to convey to Lord Lamington, Governor of Bombay, the sympathies of the citizens, for the death of his Excellency's father-in-law, Lord Newlands. On the death of the King of Denmark,—the father of Queen Alexandra of England,—a

similar message was conveyed by him to the King and Queen of England.

As to his career as Executive Engineer of the Bombay Municipal Department, it has been briefly summed up by *The Indian and Eastern Engineer*, (April, 1903), in the following paragraphs :

“ Among the most important works carried out by Mr. Murzban, as Executive Engineer to the Municipality, may be described one which affected the sanitary condition of Bombay. The whole of the town refuse was deposited on the Mahaluxmi Flats for a number of years, to the great annoyance of the citizens. In fact, some people considered that that was the primary cause of the prevalence of [the plague] pestilence in the city. The question, as to how the refuse should be disposed of, was under the consideration of the Corporation and the executive for a long time, but no conclusion had been arrived at. Mr. Murzban took up the subject in hand. He proposed several alternatives for the disposal of the refuse, *viz.*, by incineration, removal by rail and water, etc., and the Corporation finally accepted his scheme of removing the refuse by rail to [Devnoor, near Coorla], a distance of about seven miles from the city, and where it is now deposited in a low-lying swamp, away from all habitation. The reclamation of this swamp is now in progress, and several acres of land have already been reclaimed. The swamp, which was a source of annoyance and nuisance to

the neighbourhood, will soon be turned into cultivable land, and it is expected that, at the end of about 20 years, the ground will yield to the Municipality, by cultivation, Rs. 1,00,000 annually. This work was undertaken and carried out during the term of Mr. P. C. H. Snow's office as Municipal Commissioner, and he, on the completion of the work, in a letter to Mr. Murzban, wrote as follows: 'I must congratulate you heartily on having brought the *Kutchra* scheme to a final issue, a most important sanitary work in which the sole and entire credit belongs to you for the patient pertinacity and energy with which you overcame such formidable obstacles and successfully reached the goal.' *

"From the very beginning of the plague in the city, the whole of the engineering work, in connection with it, has been carried out by Mr. Murzban's department. On the establishment of the Plague Committee, under the Presidentship of General (the late Sir) William Gatacre, it kept in its own hands the engineering portion of the work, but that arrangement having proved unsuccessful, it was immediately transferred to Mr. Murzban, and the work of the establishment of all temporary Plague Hospitals and other engineering works were placed in his charge.

"The improvement of insanitary houses, in

* A detailed account of this scheme has been reproduced later on.—M. M. M.

the city, under the Epidemic Diseases Act, was entrusted to Mr. Murzban. This had proved to be a most anxious work for him, owing to innumerable difficulties. The slums of the city, and nearly thirteen thousand houses have been inspected and reported upon, many of them from the beginning of the plague,—a work of considerable risk and danger. Out of these, 12,000 houses have been found to be insanitary, and means have been adopted to improve them. An amount of tact was required to carry out this difficult work so as not to create disaffection among the people. Sir Andrew Wingate, late Plague Commissioner, on the eve of his departure on furlough, wrote to Mr. Murzban as follows:—‘I have now some acquaintance with your share of the work, and, with your permission, I should like to say what a very high opinion I entertain of what you have done and are doing for Bombay, and how much, I think, your great abilities will yet effect for the town. It has been a pleasure to know you and an encouragement to have your co-operation.’

“Among the large number of works and improvements, in the city, which have been carried out during Mr. Murzban’s tenure of office, as Executive Engineer to the Municipality, may be mentioned:—

The erection of new Worthington Triple Expansion Sewage Pumping Engines at the Love Grove Pumping Station.

Large additional filters at the Bhandarwada Reservoir.

Fire-Brigade Station in different parts of the city.

The Bhuleshwar Market and Schools and the Colaba Market.

The construction of Reay Road, Morland Road, Club Street, Extension of Gilder Street, Connaught Road, Sussex Road, Vincent Road.

House-connections in different parts of the city.

New water-mains in different parts of the city.

“The Municipal Act and the Building Bye-laws have been found to be insufficient and inefficient in many respects. Mr. Murzban has revised the Building and Street sections, [of the Act], and it is hoped that, within a short time, the Act and the Bye-laws will be revised in accordance with his suggestions.*

“The lighting of the city has also been, lately, considerably improved. Formerly, the city was lighted with ordinary gas-lamps of 14-candle-power each, at an annual cost of Rs. 2,83,350. These lamps have, at the initiative of Mr. Murzban, been all converted into incandescent gas-lamps, each giving a light of 28-candle-power at a cost of Rs. 2,24,426. Thus the city has gained, financially, by Rs. 58,924, and has obtained a much better light. Other improvements have also been made, but it is not considered necessary to allude to them here.”

* Since the publication of this paragraph in the Journal from which this excerpt is taken, the Bombay Municipal Act and the Bye-Laws have been revised.—M. M. M.

The *Times of India*, in an editorial of 2nd August, 1897, having pointed out the necessity for carrying out, and having enumerated, several measures for restoring Bombay to healthiness and prosperity, Muncherji,—who, though acknowledged to be a fluent speaker before public audiences, rarely approached the Press,—was, on this occasion, obliged to indite the following letter to the *Times of India*. As it gives more than a mere bird's-eye view of the work fully accomplished, and close upon accomplishment, I have deemed it best to reproduce here the letter *in extenso* :

“In your leader of the 2nd inst., you point out the necessity of carrying out measures, for restoring Bombay to healthiness and prosperity, under the following heads :—

(1) Removal of the present water-logged condition of large districts of the Town : (2) Completion of the drainage and sewerage of the City, including house-connections : (3) Opening out new streets and spaces in the more congested districts : (4) Erection of model dwellings, on healthy sites, for the labouring classes : (5) Removal of the Town-sweepings outside the Island : (6) Introduction of a reliable system of death-registration : and, (7) Re-organization of the Health Department.

“You conclude by stating, that, of these all important matters, the last one only has, up to the present time, been taken in hand in a methodical manner.

“I may state, that the Municipal Corporation

have foreseen the necessity of carrying out almost all the improvements suggested by you. Many of them have already been commenced, and fair progress has been made with them, while others are in contemplation, and will, it is hoped and expected, be put into execution within a measurable distance of time.

“Regarding the water-logged condition of large districts of the Town, the first and most important point is to drain the Flats, and accelerate the passage of storm-waters therefrom, to the sea, and the Special Drainage Engineer is formulating a scheme with this object. The scheme will, probably, be matured within a few weeks, and be submitted to the Corporation, by or before the termination of the rains. Other projects, for the removal of surface and subsoil waters, will follow; but it is obvious that the most important work should first be disposed of.

“As regards the completion of the drainage and sewerage system and the house-connections: the sewerage of a part of the Mazagon district (comprising also parts of Byculla, Nagpada, Dongri, and Khara Talao), which is to be on the gravitation system, has been in progress for some time past, and is approaching completion, while the sewerage of the rest of the Mazagon district, which is to be on the sectional system, has recently been sanctioned, and will very soon be taken in hand. The sewerage, of that part of the old race-course district, which is to be on the gravitation system, has been taken up and good

progress has been made. The central air-compressing machinery and the air-mains for the districts in the northern parts of the City, which are to be sewered on the sectional system, have lately been sanctioned by the Corporation.

“ House-connection works are now in progress in the Colaba, Parel, Mandvi, and Cumballa Hill districts. In Carnac Road and Mugbhat, they will shortly be commenced by the Executive Engineer's Department.

“ As regards the opening up of new streets, in the more-congested parts of the City, it may be stated that every opportunity is taken of widening the streets and constructing new ones. Whenever a house, standing within the “ Improvement-line ” of a street, falls down, or is taken down, the house is set-back, and the street widened at that place. Some of the principal new roads, in the Agripada district, have been completed at a considerable expenditure of money ; and others will be started immediately after the rains. The new road,—from the Wari Bunder Level crossing through Mazagon to join the new road (Reay Road), constructed by the Port Trustees at Tank Bunder,—will shortly be commenced. A great portion of the land, required for the construction of this road, has already been purchased, and the acquisition of the rest is in the hands of the Municipal Executive Engineer. The completion of this road will give great relief to the heavy cart-traffic through DeLima Street and Coppersmith Road, the narrow thoroughfares of a thickly-populated locality.

“Some of the old and wretched houses in Dhobi-talao, in which a large number of cases of plague occurred, have been pulled down, and the opportunity, thus afforded, will be taken advantage of for constructing a road from Girgaum Road to Trinity Street, to be continued, eventually, to Queen’s Road. This will open out a part of Dhobi-talao which is very unhealthy, and in which cases of cholera and other diseases frequently occur.

“In a dirty, thickly-populated lane, near Bhendi Bazar, known as Piru Lane, several houses have also been pulled down; and it is proposed to purchase the land, and widen the lane as soon as possible. This will considerably improve a part of the City very thickly-populated by Mahomedans.

“The question of the removal of Town-sweepings, outside Bombay, has also seriously engaged the attention of the Municipal Executive Engineer. The site, for the Railway sidings and platform at Arthur Road, has been cleared; and the work of laying the sidings has also been commenced. The construction of the platform will also be started within a short time. The ground for the sidings at Coorla, and that for depositing the sweepings at Chimbur, are being acquired by the Executive Engineer, and the Land Acquisition Act will be put into force, whenever necessary. Waggons, for carrying the ‘kachra,’ are being made in the workshops of the B. B. & C. I. Railway.

“The examination of houses in the City,—another important sanitary work referred to by you,—has also been put in hand. A party, con-

sisting of one of the Executive Engineer's assistants and four inspectors, is now examining the houses in Kamatipura and the adjoining districts. Another party, under the Executive Engineer's personal superintendence, is now inspecting the houses in Dhobi-talao and Kalbadevi. No fewer than 1,100 houses have already been examined, and it is expected that several hundred more will be surveyed by the end of the rains. The present condition of the houses, the defects existing in them, and the improvements necessary to make them fit for human habitation, are all noted. At the conclusion of the rains, a report will be made to the proper authorities, and it will then rest with them to decide what course should be adopted for the reform of the insanitary dwellings.

“The question of the introduction of a reliable system of death-registration is now being considered, but the matter is a very complex one, and will necessitate considerable alterations in the Municipal Act.

“Of the various improvements mentioned by you, the only one which the Corporation have not yet dealt with, is that of the erection of model-dwellings for the labouring classes. It is hoped that this also will receive the attention of the Corporation, after some of the more important measures, now in hand, are carried out.

“It is true that the opening out of many more streets, in the congested parts of the City, is necessary, but the execution of such works is not so easy as is supposed in some quarters. The

demolition of houses, the acquisition of land, the removal of buildings used for religious purposes, the utilization of portions of grave-yards, and many other difficulties, come in the way of these improvements. Besides these, the value of land, in the thickly-populated parts of the City, is so high as to render a very speedy execution of such works impracticable.

“It will, thus, be seen that nearly all the matters, referred to in your leader, are receiving attention, as far as the finances of the Corporation admit; but it must be remembered that the completion, of all these projects, will involve a vast outlay far beyond the present capabilities of the Municipality, even if borrowing, to the utmost margin, were resorted to. The heavy and continuous expenditure, on account of the plague, has proved most detrimental, and cannot fail to have the effect of postponing many important minor works, and wealthy as the City of Bombay may be, its finances, like those of any other large body, have to be conducted on business principles, which would hardly be the case if the vain attempt to obtain and spend several crores of rupees, in a short period, were made with the view of simultaneously completing all the projects enumerated.”

(Sd.) M. C. MURZBAN.

In the foregoing pages, the question of the removal, of the town-sweepings, outside Bombay, has been more than once referred to. I have ex-

cerpted the following from the "Administration Report, of the Municipal Commissioner of Bombay, for the year 1898-99." The excerpts are from Muncherji's Report forwarded to the Commissioner of the Bombay Municipality, with his letter No. 5967 of 15th July 1899. :—

" 55. As stated in the previous report, the scheme for the transportation of the Town refuse consists of the following works :

- (a) the construction of two tipping platforms and a Railway siding on the Mahaluxmi Flats, including the erection of culverts over the open Agripada drain crossing the line of the siding.
- (b) the construction of Rolling stock for the conveyance of the sweepings.
- (c) the construction of approach roads to the platforms, and
- (d) the construction of a Railway line from the Kurla Station of the G. I. P. Railway, to Deonar, the future place of deposit of the sweepings including the culverts to span the waterways.

" 56. The entire work comprised under (a), (b), and (c) has been completed.

" 57. The work under (d) has also been completed, with the exception of certain petty works such as the bunds around the kutchra-depositing ground at Deonar, and the pitching of the slopes of the Railway bank, which are expected to be completed in the following year.

“ 58. The line was formally opened for use on 12th May 1899, and the transportation of the town-sweeping commenced on 7th June 1899.

“ 59. Some difficulty was encountered in carrying out the work under (d), (which was, as stated in the previous Report, given out by contract), owing to the failure of the Contractors Messrs.

* * * * After doing a certain amount of the Embankment work, the Contractors expressed their inability to proceed further, and it was therefore resolved to carry out the rest of the work departmentally. This formed the most difficult part of the scheme, *viz.*, the construction of embankments and culverts and laying of the pipe-drains in the swamps, a great portion of which is under water during high-tides. A beginning was made at the end of May 1898, and the work carried on to completion about the same time this year, [1899].

“ 60. The following is a brief description of the different works carried out on the Mahaluxmi Flats, and of those between Kurla and Deonar :

“ 61. There are two platforms for wading the kutchra into the waggons, each having a retaining wall of uncoursed rubble masonry, 700 feet in length and 4 feet in width at the base. These walls are 39 feet apart. Each wall is provided with triangular trusses 10 feet apart, from centre to centre, and buried in masonry for carrying the longitudinal wheel guards 10" \times 10" which project 9" beyond the face of the walls to prevent the carts toppling over in it the process of emptying their contents. These guards are placed on cast-iron

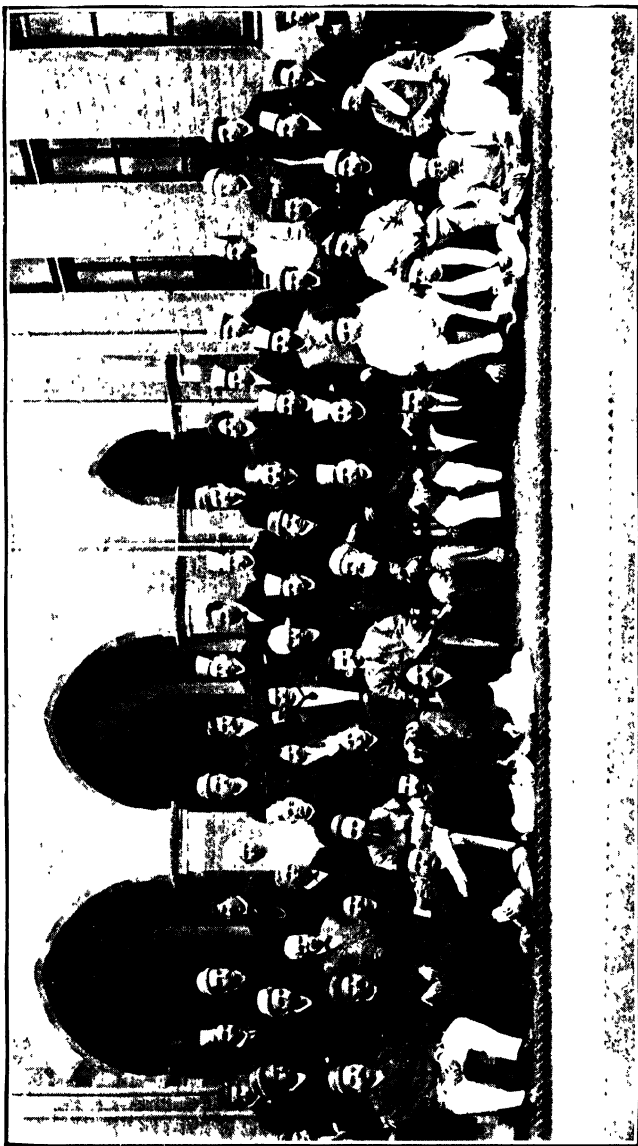
brackets bolted and firmly secured to the tops of the vertical posts of the trusses.

“ 62. The platforms are approached by two roads, 40 feet in width each, and having a total length of about 3,300 feet, leading from Clerk Road to Arthur Road. These roads are carried over the Agripada drain which has been bridged over by means of two archways, one on either side of the railway siding, the arch being semi-circular in shape, having a span of 10 feet, the arch-ring being 14 inches in thickness. A 4" water-pipe has been provided underneath these roads, with hydrants of the new pattern introduced in Bombay for watering the surfaces of the roads, by means of hose.

“ 63. There are three sidings between the platforms, which merge into two at a distance of 228 feet beyond the Agripada drain and extend towards the Clerk Road level crossing, whence they work into the existing main line of the B. B. & C. I. Railway. The total length of these sidings is 2,445 feet.

“ 64. In consequence of the nature of the soil, the permanent-way is carried on a bed of 9" of well packed rubble stone. It consists generally of 69 lbs. rails, resting upon four-holed cast-iron chairs, bolted on creosoted sleepers 9' x 10" x 5" placed at a distance of about 2'-8" from centre to centre.

“ 65. The rails are carried on a skew over the Agripada drain on wrought iron composite girders one foot in depth, and made of T. and L. irons, and supported on masonry abutments, the



[Page 104.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Municipality.

અ.બાઈના મ્યુનિસિપાલિટીના એક્ઝિક્યુટિવ એન્જનીયરનાં ખાતાના અમલદારો

[Times Press.

foundations of which are 8'-6" in width at bottom, and carried to a depth of about 10 feet.

" 66. The whole of the siding, except the portions which run between the platforms, is enclosed on both sides with 7 strand wire-fencing.

" 67. The other portion of the work, *viz.*, the Railway between Kurla and Deonar, is 16,780 feet in length, excluding an additional siding which is 2,115 feet in length. Nearly the whole of the Railway runs through marshy ground, and is carried on an embankment, made of the materials excavated from the adjoining ground. The railway-line is almost level throughout its greater length, its steepest grade being 1 in 200. Curves on this line have radii varying from 1,000 feet to 2,000 feet. The line of railway, as constructed, will divide the depositing ground into two parts. The portion to the south will be completely cut off from the sea, while that to the north will be protected hereafter by means of an embankment, to keep out the sea-water, and to prevent the deposited materials from being washed away.

" 68. A storm-water canal has also been constructed alongside the southern and south-eastern boundary of the depositing ground, for intercepting the storm-waters from the high lands and discharging it into the sea.

" 69. The total length of this canal is about 10,476 feet. It is 75 feet in width at its commencement, and 175 feet at its end. In the lank of the canal separating the depositing ground from

the canal, thirty, 9" flap trays have been provided for passing out the rain-water from that ground.

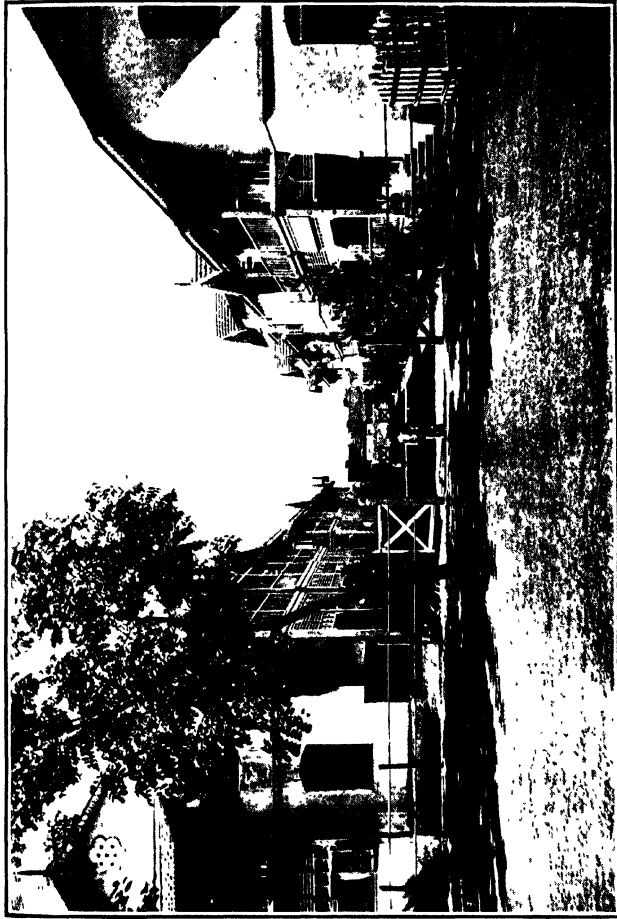
"70. Certain alterations had also to be made in the Rifle Ranges, at Kurla, through which the railway-line passes, to admit of the shooting being done across the railway.

"71. It has been arranged that the Health Department should carry out the work of loading the material into the waggons at the Tardeo Flats and unloading it at Deonar. The two Railway Companies will carry the material, at the rates and charges mentioned in the previous Report, and the maintenance of the railway line between Kurla and Deonar will be looked after by this Department.

"72. Quarters have been erected on a high plot of ground, near Chimbur, between Kurla and the depositing ground, for the staff employed to unload the sweepings at Deonar. It consists of four blocks, each containing 20 rooms, with verandahs $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide on either side of it. Each room is $12' \times 10'$. Quarters have also been built for the Inspector, and an Office and a store-room, with washing places, latrines, a shed for bhangis, etc. These quarters are supplied with water by means of a 2" service pipe taken from the 48" Tansa Main. A 1" pipe has been taken further on to the depositing ground.

"73. It is expected that the ground would be reclaimed in about 23 years, if the quantity of refuse remains as at present.

"74. The land, at Chimbur, admeasuring about



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**SOME OF THE CHEAP-RENTAL RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS
FOR PARSIS : (in Tardeo, Bombay).**

[Designed by M. C. Murzban.]

મરથોસ્તીઓ માટેનાં, તારદેવવાળાં, કેટલાંએક સસ્તા ભાડાંનાં મકાનોનો એક સંગ્રહ.

[Times Press.]

60 acres, reclaimed by the Municipality, some time ago, with town-sweepings, is let for cultivation for Rs. 7,380, for the year 1899-1900.

“75. It is estimated that the land, now proposed to be reclaimed, will yield a revenue of about one lakh of Rupees after the reclamation is completed, if it yields the same proportionate revenue as that derived from the one above-mentioned.

“76. The whole of this work has been under the immediate superintendence of my personal assistant, Mr. Maneckji Sheriarji Bharucha, L. C. E. ; and Messrs. Madhavrao Ramchandra Natu and Muncherji Edulji Joshi, L. C. E., Inspectors, looked after the execution of the work and were responsible for the levels, measurements, and keeping of accounts. I cannot speak too favourably of the way each performed his work. Their exertions, in carrying out the work so successfully, deserve special mention from me.”

As to one of the most important works done by Muncherji, outside the sphere of his professional duties,—both under the British Government, and under the Municipality of Bombay,—says *The Indian and Eastern Engineer* (April 1903) :—

“ Among private works carried out by Mr. Murzban, it may be mentioned that, long before the plague broke out, it was apparent to him that the best means of improving the sanitary condition of Bombay, was to provide suitable sanitary dwellings for the poorer classes of the people. To carry out such a gigantic work was beyond his

power; but, in 1887, he prepared a scheme for the construction of sanitary dwellings for the Parsi poor by means of subscriptions amongst the members of that community. The buildings, constructed for the accommodation of poor Parsis, have been raised through Mr. Murzban's exertions. They are constructed on the principle of Peabody's Homes in England. They are for the accommodation of artisans, clerks, and other people who have not sufficient means to provide, for themselves and their families, accommodation at moderate rents. No less a sum than Rs. 4,35,000 * has been collected through Mr. Murzban's exertions, and the buildings have all been constructed from his plans, and under his superintendence. The rents of the quarters vary from 8 annas to Rs. 8 † per month, the former sum, *viz.*, 8 annas, being charged to helpless widows. No less than twenty-three different blocks of buildings have already been constructed. ‡ These buildings have proved a boon to the poor people, both from a pecuniary and from a sanitary point of view. The rents, charged for the quarters, are just sufficient to pay for the repairs, insurance, maintenance and Municipal rates. The mortality, compared with that of the general community of

* Upto the end of 1914, this figure has gone upto about Rs. 7,50,000.—M. M. M.

† The rent of some of the buildings, has since been fixed at Rs. 20 per month.—M. M. M.

‡ Upto 1914, these blocks numbered 33.—M. M. M.

the city, has been found to be very low, and the sickness also is very small, not a single [local] case of plague having occurred among the 123 families * living in these buildings since the epidemic has raged in Bombay.

“Attached to this institution, there is a school, in which 160 children, **—both boys and girls,—are educated without any help from Government or the School Board. † In this school, tuition is given upto the 7th [Matriculation] Standard, and the reports of the examiners during the current year [1903] have been most satisfactory and complimentary. Fees, charged to the children, vary from 4 annas to Re. 1, ‡ so that, education is placed within the means of the poor people residing in these buildings and in the neighbourhood.

“In connection with these buildings, there is also a dispensary, where free medicine and medical advice are given. The average yearly attendance of patients has been 5,410.”

This dispensary was endowed, on the suggestion of Muncherjee, by members of the Allbless

* In 1914, the number of members of families residing therein has been 206.—M. M. M.

**In 1914, the pupils numbered 360.—M. M. M.

† Later on, Government and the Joint-Schools Committee have been contributing towards the expenses of this school, by way of Grants-in Aid,” etc.—M. M. M.

‡ The fees now charged are from annas four to Rs. 2-4.—M. M. M.

family, and has, therefore, been named 'The Dhunjibhoy Edalji Allbless Dispensary.'

Ever since the foundation of these Parsi Residential Quarters he has been a Trustee and the Honorary Secretary in charge of the Funds, in connection therewith, and the privilege of acting as such for life, has been his.* At present there are two Honorary Secretaries, Messrs. Behramji N. Gamadia & Muncherji.

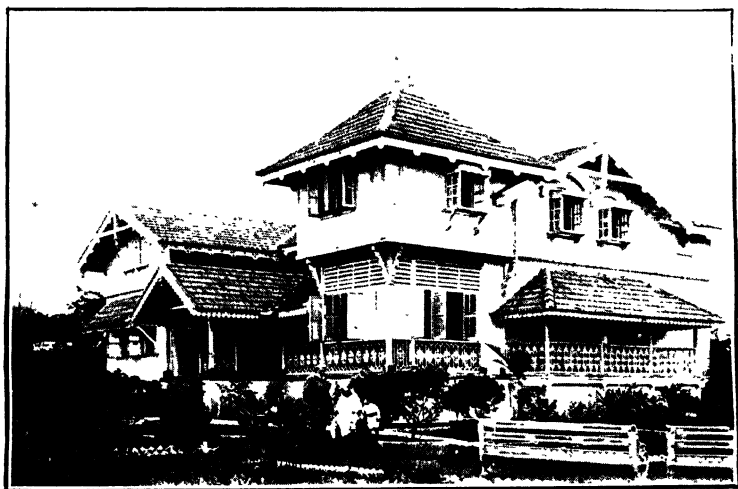
Referring to the opening of one of the buildings for these Homes,—the gift of Bai. Avabai, daughter of Edalji Framji Allbless,—the *Advocate of India*, (December 14, 1892), says: "Mr. Muncherji Murzban, the new Municipal Executive Engineer, is the architect of these fine buildings. The laying out of the ground, and the design of the buildings were entrusted to him, and, in the completion of the finest range of poor-houses in Bombay, we find one more example of Mr. Murzban's qualifications, not only as an architect, but as a Sanitary Engineer. We rejoice in his high qualifications as a Sanitary Engineer, for, in his new post, in the Municipality, this valuable quality, in the head of the Engineering Executive, will be continually called forth. There is no doubt in our mind, that

* In an Appendix, I have put together, for the first time, all the up-to-date details, giving the name or names of the donors of each building, in whose memory erected, the cost, and the year in which built.—M. M. M.



A gathering in
"BAGH-O-BAHAR" [Page 111]
 (belonging to M. C. Murzban)
 on the occasion of the naming of the suburb of "Murzbanabad" (in Andheri)

મનચેરજી કા. મર્ઝબાનનો આ **"બાગો-બાહાર"**
 નામનો બગીચો બંધાયા પછી અંગ્રેજીના એક વિભાગને "મરઝબાનાબાદ"નું
 નામ આપવાની ક્રિયા વખતે લેવાયેલો ફોટો.



"KOHE-NOOR."
 (M. C. Murzban's summer residence in Lanavla.)
"કોહેનુર"—(મનચેરજી કા. મર્ઝબાનનું લાનોલીનું મકાન.)

[Times Press.]

it is the intimate knowledge, which Mr. Murzban possesses, of the evils of the existing house-system—the chawl-system—of Bombay that has made him such a competent sanitary-engineer as we know him to be. He has built palaces on the Esplanade, and has provided these palaces with sanitary fittings which work well under the two prime conditions of ‘intelligent usage,’ and, ‘regardless of expense,’ for supervision . . . His sanitary education,—we might call it his real sanitary education,—was obtained in the slums and miserable and insanitary chawl-houses of Bombay, and it is this education which has enabled him to erect the grand series of poor-houses he has just completed in Falkland Road.”

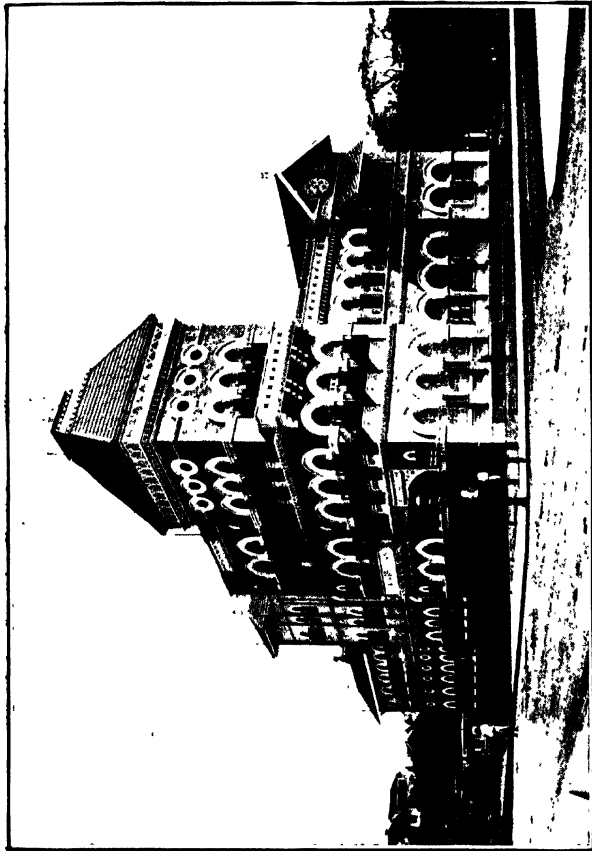
“About the time Mr. Murzban, established the Poor Parsi Homes,”—says the *Indian & Eastern Engineer*,—“he purchased [in Andheri] a large area of ground in a healthy situation, about 15 miles from Bombay, and there started the establishment of a new town. Here a large number of bungalows have been constructed by all classes of the community of Bombay. These have proved a boon to them, as being a safe refuge during the prevalence of plague. In recognition of this work, the inhabitants, of that part of the district, applied to Mr. Barrow, I. C. S., the then Collector of Thana, to call it ‘Murzbanabad,’ and that officer was pleased to perform the ceremony of so naming it.”

On the 5th of November 1898, on the occasion of a *jasan* ceremony, in Andheri, one of its

estate-holders is reported, in the local newspapers, of Bombay, to have said: "Mr. Murzban had done yeoman's services in ameliorating the sufferings of the poor of Andheri, in beautifying the town, by inducing others to build neat and handsome cottages, in providing the town with Tansa water, and a dispensary, where the daily attendance is over fifty persons."

"Among the Institutions,"—as stated in *The Indian and Eastern Engineer*,—"with which Mr. Murzban is connected may be mentioned the Parsi Lying-in Hospital. He has been connected with this Institution from its very foundation, and has taken a most lively interest in its advancement. This Hospital is now accommodated in its own building, which has cost Rs. 1,05,000.* The building was designed by, and constructed under the superintendence of Mr. Murzban, as a member of the Committee. This hospital affords accommodation for 50 patients, and has, in a great measure, removed a long-felt want of the community. Owing to a certain custom among the Parsis, females in a delicate state of health are forced to reside, during the period of illness, on ground-floor rooms which are generally ill-lighted, ill-ventilated, and badly drained. This hospital has indirectly broken through that custom; and hundreds

* The actual total cost, up to the end of 1914, has been Rs. 1,30,541, of which one Wing, named after Nasarvanji Jehangirji Wadia, has cost Rs. 30,000.—M. M. M.



Built in 1895]

THE PARSİ LYING-IN HOSPITAL,

Fort, Esplanade.

[Designed by M. C. Murzban]

પારસીઓ માટેનાં સુવાવડખાનાની ઇમારત.

ફોર્ટ, એસ્પ્લાનેડ.

[Page 112.

[Times Press.

of Parsi females are taking the benefit of this Institution."

The *Times of India*, (November 15, 1894), on the occasion of the opening ceremony of this hospital observed: "The ground being obtained, [from Government], plans and estimates of the building were made by Khan Bahadur M. C. Murzban, C. I. E., who has been able to secure, at a minimum cost, (Rs. 60,000),* the maximum of comforts and conveniences in the new structure. He has made the most of one of the best sites in the Fort, and has contrived to obtain as much accommodation for the patients as the limited space at his command could afford. He has brought to bear, on the structure, his best architectural skill, and has made it as elegant as it is commodious, and has introduced the latest sanitary improvements essential to such a building."

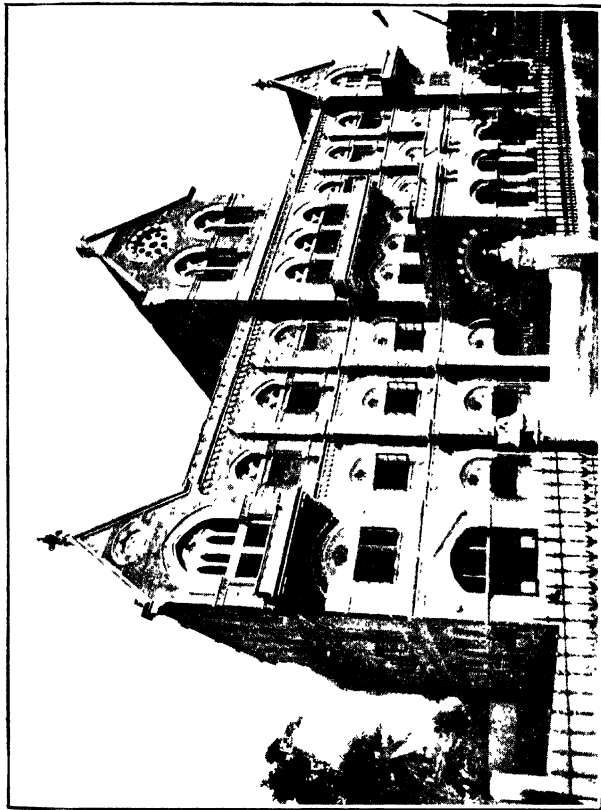
Another institution, for the idea of which Muncherji may be said to have been the originator, was an Hospital for the exclusive use of the Parsi community. Years ago, he collected sums of money for founding such an Hospital. But, eventually, he had to abandon the idea, a part of the funds having been returned to the donors, while the rest of the funds collected was, by permission of the donors, utilized towards the erection of a building as part of the Cheap Rental Residential Quarters for Parsis. A marble-tablet, notifying the

* See my foot-note on p. 112, *ante*.—M. M. M.

source of and the original purpose for which the moneys were collected, has been put up in one of these buildings.

As far back as in 1893, one of the daily English newspapers wrote (on January 19): "But all the wants of the Parsi poor are not yet supplied, though much has undoubtedly been done for them. There is no Parsi Hospital exclusively for Parsees in Bombay. And why should there not be? Some time ago, there was a widespread feeling amongst the community that a Parsee Hospital was very desirable, and a fund was started. For this fund, about Rs. 55,000 was, almost immediately, collected by Mr. Muncherji Murzban, and collected without an effort. Suddenly, either the donations ceased, or the collections ceased. At all events, the fund came to a standstill, and we regret to observe that a preliminary meeting has been held to consider the propriety of diverting this fund to some other purpose. The grounds, for this proposed transfer, are not either convincing or conclusive. These are: that there is no *great* present need for a hospital for Parsees, and that the community have not taken kindly to the scheme. We say, these reasons are not satisfying, and that they are only skin-deep. There is a want of a Parsee Hospital. . . . " A Parsi Hospital is now a *fait accompli*.

In 1898, Miss Delphine Menant, of Paris, in her historical work, *Les Parsis*, (in the French language, and of which I was her collaborator), has published, in its chapter on "Education," a life-



Built in 1909]

THE BYRAMJEE JEEJEEBHoy PARSİ CHARITABLE INSTITUTION,
Queen's Road,

[Page 115

[Designed by M. C. Murzban.]

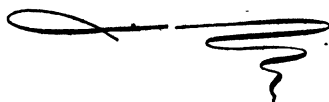
શેઠ બેહરામજી જીજીભાઈ પારસી ચેરિટેબલ ઇન્સ્ટિટ્યુશનની ઇમારત,
કવીન્ડ રોડ.

[Times Press,

sketch of Muncherji, with a full page portrait.

A finishing touch, to this brief chronological narrative of Muncherji's life, may be given in the following words of the *Indian Textile and Electrical News* (of December 1903):

“Mr. Murzban has not only been a City Engineer of the highest order, but an energetic public citizen. In reclamation, sanitation, architectural improvement, laying out streets, disposal of sewage, and all other items which fill up the work of a conscientious, hard-working public servant, Mr. Murzban has done his duty, and the community at large must feel regret at his departure from the high post which he is resigning,”—namely, his appointment of Executive Engineer of the Bombay Municipal Department.



APPEN

TABLE SHOWING DE
CHEAP RENTAL PARSI
ERECTED UNDER THE
MUNCHERJI C.

(BUILT IN TARDEO

Date of opening of the Building	By whom Endowed.
1.	2.
1st Dec. 1889	By the trustees of the estate of the deceased Nasarvanji Navrozji Bode Esqr.
2nd Nov. 1891	Funds subscribed to on various occasions.
2nd Nov. 1891	By the heirs of Kharshedji Palanji Powvala Esqr.
2nd Nov. 1891	By Dhanjibhai Edalji Allbless.
11th Dec. 1892	By Bai Avabai Kavasji Bezanji Karani, (daughter of Edalji Framji Allbless Esqr.)
11th Nov. 1894	By Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit (the 1st Baronet.)
15th June 1896	By Bai Dinbai Nasarvanji Petit.

DIX.

TAILS RELATING TO
RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS.
SUPERVISION OF
MURZBAN.

& FALKLAND ROAD.)

In whose memory built. 3.	Amount re- ceived by way of Endowment. 4.	Actual cost of construction. 5.
	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Nasarvanji Navroji Bode Esqr.	10,714	1,20,47
2.—Several Parsi Ladies & Gentlemen	11,000	11,067
3.—Kharshedji Palanji Powvala Esqr.	6,500	6,803
4.—Edalji Fardunji Allbless Esqr.	16,400	16,962
5.—Bai Avabai Kavasji Bezanji Karani.	19,500	19,667
6.—Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit (the 1st Baronet) ...	15,000	15,720
7.—Jamshedji Nasarvanji Petit Esqr.	6,000	6,086

1.	2.
9th Feb. 1896	By Framji Dinshaw Petit Esqr.
9th Feb. 1896	By Bomanji Dinshaw Petit, Esqr.
9th Feb. 1896	By : Bai Heerabai Nasarvanji Petit, Manekbai Ferozshah Bomanji Jijibhai, & Bachoobai Mehervanji Sorabji Jamshedji, (Daughters of Sir Dinshaw M. Petit, the 1st Baronet.)
9th Feb. 1896	By : Bai Bhikhaiji Dady Nasarvanji Dady, Navajbai Ferozshaw Meher- vanji Jijibhai, & Hamabai Framji Rastamji Cama, (Daughters of Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit, the 1st Baronet.)
5th June 1898	By Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit (the 1st Baronet.)
5th June 1898	By Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit (the 1st Baronet) & his daughters. (For a School Building.)
27th Nov. 1898	By Bai Gulbai Kaekhushru Rastamji Unvala, (daughter of Pestanji Nasar- wanji Wadia Esqr.)
27th Nov. 1898	From Funds subscribed on various occasions, from the General Fund, & from fund formerly collected for the purpose of founding a Parsi Hospital. (See p. 113, <i>ante</i> .)

3.	4.	5.
	Rs.	Rs.
8.—Manekji Nasarvanji Petit Esqr.	10,500	10,295
9.—Bai Hamabai Manekji Nasarvanji Petit.	10,500	10,295
10.—Lady Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit	10,500	10,295
11.—Lady Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit	10,500	10,295
12.—Kavasji Dinshaw Petit.	13,500	13,119
13.—Bai Ratanbai Framji Dorabji Panday, (daughter of Sir Dinshaw Manekji Petit, the 1st Baronet)	20,154	22,330
14.—Kaekhushru Rastamji Unvala Esqr.	10,000	9,923
15.—Several Parsi ladies and gentlemen	12,747	12,747

1.	2.
27th Nov. 1898	Executors & daughter Bai Dinbai, Wife of Dosabhai Dadabhai Allbless. Esqr. (For a building for a Dispensary attached to the Homes.)
27th Nov. 1898	Meherwanji & Hormasji Muncherji Cama, Esquires.
30th April 1899	By heirs, from the estate, of the deceased Jehangirji Rastamji Mody Esqr.
30th April 1899	From the estate of the deceased Kavasji Bezanji Parakh, Esqr.
1st April 1900	By the children of the deceased, & from the estate of, Bai Jaiji Sorabji Framji Patel.
21st March 1901	By Dinshaw Hirjibhai Malegaumvala, Esqr., from the estate of the deceased Bai Avabai Dinshah Hirjibhai Malegamvala.
25th Feb. 1903	By Ferozshah Manekji Kaka Esqr; from the estate of the deceased Bai Dosibai Ferozshah Manekji Kaka.
25th Feb. 1903	By Fardunji Framji Karaka Esqr. from the estate of the deceased Shiavakshah.
25th Feb. 1903	By Subscription raised by the <i>Rast Goftar</i> , weekly newspaper, & augmented from the General Fund of the Parsi Residential Quarters.

3.	4.	5.
	Rs.	Rs.
16.—Dhanjibhai Edalji Allbless Esqr... ..	9,000	8,770
17.—Mancherji Framji Cama Esqr & his wife, Bai Avabai...	55,622	55,622
18.—Jehangirji Rastamji Mody Esqr.	12,000	10,970
19.—Bai Gulbai Kavasji Bezanji Parakh, (daughter of Jivaji Jasoobhai Esqr.) ...	18,000	17,783
20.—Bai Jaiji Sorabji Framji Patel.... ..	9,407	9,260
21.—Bai Avabai Dinshaw Hirjibhai Malegamvala. ...	16,000	16,210
22.—Bai Dosibai Ferozshah Manekji Kaka.	12,000	12,008
23.—Shiavakshah Fardunji Framji Karaka Esqr. ...	5,645	5,733
24.—Khan Bahadur Mun- cherji Cowasji Murzban Esqr., C. I. E.	15,988	15,988

1.	2.
22nd Dec. 1905	By Bai Soonabai Dhanjishah Manekji Lalkaka & relatives.
24th Feb. 1906	From the estate of Bai Jerbai Jehangirji Munchershaw Taleyarkhan & by her son Hormasji Jehangirji Taleyarkhan Esqr.
1st March 1915	By the Executors of Jamshedji Kavasji Patel, Esqr. } Bai Ratanbai Kharshedji Nasarvanji Wadia. }
1st March 1915	By the sole surviving trustee (Dady Nasarvanji Dady Esqr.) of the "Dady seth's Parabh"
1915	By Framji Hormasji Bomanji Sethna, Esq.
20th Dec, 1909	By Bai Jerbai Hormasji Manekji Dadachanji.

3.	4.	5.
25.—Dhanjishah Manekji Lalkaka Esqr., his son Ardesir & daughter Bachoobai ...	Rs. 8,000	Rs. 8,334
26.—Bai Jerbai Jehangirji Manchershah Taleyarkhan ; (daughter of Fardunji Dosa-bhai Parakh, Esqr.)... ..	5,100	6,064
27.—(a) Kavasji Edalji Patel Esqr., & his wife, Bai Dinbai:	16,000	(Actual cost not known up-to-date of going to Press.—M. M.)
(b) Bai Soonabai Sorabji Kavasji Powvala, & Firoz Kharshedji Wadia, Esqr.	(Made up of Rs. 10,000 received from the Executors of J. K. Patel Esqr., & Rs. 6,000 from Bai Ratan-bai Kharshedji N. Wadia.)	
28.—The late Ardesir Dady Esqr., (from whcse “ Dady seth’s Parabh ”’s income the amount of the endowment has been handed over.)	18,115	do.
	(i.e. Rs. 22,000 including inte- rest on the principal sum.)	
29.—Hormasji Bomanji Sorabji Sethna Esqr. ...	About Rs. 40,000	do.
30.—Hormasji Manekji Dadachanji, and Rustamji & Shapurji Batla, Esqr... ..	38,000	18,549

(BUILT ON LAND, SITU
LEASED FROM THE BOMBAY

1	2
20th Dec. 1909	By Hormasji Nasarvanji Cooper, Esqr., (of China.)
.....	By the Trustees of, & from the Charity Trust Funds established by, Bai Pirozbai Nasarvanji Jehangirji Wadia.
.....	Sir Hormasji Naorozji Mody, Kt. (of Hongkong.)
.....	Burzorji Manekji Talookdar, Esqr., and his wife Bai Manekbai.

ATED IN AGRIPADA, &
IMPROVEMENT TRUST.)

3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.
31.—Nasarvanji Dhanjibhai Hirjibhai Cooper Esqr. ...	27,000	30,381
32.—Nasarvanji Jehangir Wadia Esqr.	40,000	41,515
33.—Mehervanji Hormasji Mody, Esq.	22,000	21,196
34.—Bai Pirojbai Manekji Bharoocha, & Manekji Ratanji Bharoocha, Esqr., (parents of Burzorji Manekji Talookdar) & of the deceased brothers & sisters of Burzorji M. Talookdar Esqr.	25,000	26,264
Received by way of endow- ments. TOTAL Rs...	5,80,277

